

To: USA Track & Field Para Athletes
From: USA Track & Field Para
Date: November 26, 2026

We are excited to announce that USATF will continue our resident program at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center (CVEATC) in 2026! The program is designed for high performance U.S. athletes competing solely in the sport of Para track and field who desire a structured training environment with daily coaching opportunities.

The program is reserved for elite athletes and guides who have demonstrated the potential to medal or are trending toward medal potential at the 2028 Paralympic Games. This program will also consider 2028 Paralympic hopefuls. Guide athletes are deemed athletes in this program. The resident program will be available for athletes who are prepared to make a full-time commitment to training, recovery, and competing under the direction and leadership of Coach Joaquim Cruz and Coach Kris Mack. Additional coaching staff may be added and approved at any time by the Director and the Senior Coach.

As part of the resident athlete program, athletes will have the option of participating in the program either as a full-time on campus or full-time off campus athlete. Full-time resident athletes are expected to reside at the CVEATC (on campus) or in the Chula Vista/San Diego area (off campus).

Specific training and competition schedules will be geared to the individual athlete's needs, but generally will include mandatory daily prescribed workouts, scheduled weight room sessions, six WPA approved competitions per year (to include National Championships (self-funded)), specified nutrition counseling, sport performance related assessments (including, but not limited to blood draws, body analysis, functional movement screens, etc.). Designated competitions will be outlined in the athlete's personal performance plan as agreed by the Senior Coach and athlete's assigned coach if different from the Senior Coach. Other mandatory components of the program may include sport science testing, career and education training, sport psychology sessions, community outreach and involvement, and media training.

The rotation program at CVEATC may be offered to current Tier & Talent Protection Program athletes who are seeking additional training opportunities at CVEATC, if space is available. The Director may invite additional athletes by name throughout the year without submission of an application.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

USATF Para - USA Track & Field Para (formerly U.S. Paralympics Track & Field)

CVEATC/CV - Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center

Program Period – Refers to the period of time from January 5, 2026 – December 31, 2026

USOPC - U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee

WPA – World Para Athletics

Throughout this document, all mentions of athletes refer exclusively to Paralympic athletes within USATF.

TYPES OF RESIDENT PROGRAMS

On campus resident: Athletes live full-time at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center (CVEATC). Athletes will receive breakfast, lunch, and dinner at CVEATC. Athletes will have a roommate and will be housed in a two-bedroom suite with three total suite mates and a shared bathroom and common area.

Off campus resident: Athletes will have full access to CVEATC facilities. Athletes will receive breakfast, lunch, and dinner at CVEATC. Athletes must have access to their own reliable transportation and housing.

In 2026 there will be no off-campus housing assistance programs for any athletes.

APPLICATION & ACCEPTANCE

Applications and other necessary forms for the resident athlete program will be available at the following link: <https://www.usparatf.org/resident-and-rotation-program>. Acceptance to the program will be at the sole discretion of USATF staff and all openings available in the program are not required to be filled. *All current resident athletes will be required to re-apply, and it is not guaranteed that current athletes will be accepted to return to the 2026 program.*

Minimum requirements:

- Athlete must be a current U.S. citizen with a current U.S. passport.
- Athlete must be 18 years of age or older to reside at CVEATC full time as a part of the program.
- Must not be enrolled in school or have a job that interferes with training times Monday-Friday 8am-1pm and Saturdays 9am-1pm as directed by assigned coach.
- Be willing to submit a complete health profile screening, including a thorough medical history and comprehensive physical examination.
- Must obtain a current WPA athlete license and USATF membership by January 5, 2026.
- Must be nationally classified.
- Be able to live independently and take care of all personal needs without supervision, which shall include, but not be limited to, attending practices, meetings, showering, dressing, eating, etc.
- Be able to communicate, respect individuality, and share common spaces with teammates.
- Have a verifiable result in 2025 that is at least 85% of the 2026 A standard for their respective classification in an LA28 Paralympic program event. This percentage does not guarantee an athlete will be accepted into the resident program, this is a minimum requirement to be considered. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Director if an athlete was injured or unable to compete in 2025.
- Athlete must maintain ongoing compliance with Safe Sport rules and requirements.

APPLICATION EVALUATION

Athlete applications will be evaluated with the following in mind. This list is not exhaustive, but this will take priority when selecting athletes for the resident program. This list is not in priority order.

- Space availability within the program.
- Funding availability for the 2026 program.
- Athletes' ability to provide their own transportation and housing, if not approved for on campus housing.
- Athlete medal capability at 2027 World Championships and/or 2028 Paralympic Games.
- Athlete willingness to focus solely on training and competing in Para track and field.
- Athlete's desire and willingness to commit 100% to the training outlined or approved by their assigned coach.
- Athlete's desire and willingness to follow rules related to the program.
- Training compatibility with other resident athletes, coaches, and staff.
- Availability of onsite one-on-one coaching in athletes' event discipline(s).
- Progress in World Para Athletics (WPA) world rankings will be a consideration in

- evaluating both program and individual resident athlete applications and renewals.
- Other relevant performance data from the current quadrennium.

USATF staff may, but are not required to, add additional athletes after the application deadline has passed and after the program start date if additional spots remain or become available. Late applications will be accepted at the sole discretion of USATF Director, Paralympics. Unless special circumstances are cited and approved by the USATF Director, Paralympics, resident programs will be awarded at CVEATC only.

The 2026 CVEATC on-campus resident program will begin January 5, 2026, and will end December 31, 2026. All athletes, on and off campus, will be expected to arrive at CVEATC no later than January 9, 2026, to begin preliminary testing and assessments. New athletes to the program will be able to move in beginning January 5, 2026. Prior to arriving at CVEATC, all athletes, on and off campus, need to have a USATF membership and be compliant with USATF athlete safety requirements.

IMPORTANT DATES (2025-2026):

December 5, 2025	Application process closes.
January 5, 2026	2026 Resident Program athlete move-in and program start.
April 2026	Athlete evaluations.
July/August 2026	Athlete evaluations.
November 2026	2027 resident program information and applications released.
November 2026	Athletes begin receiving notification of 2027 resident status.
December 18, 2026	Athlete move-out for those not returning to the 2027 program.

ATHLETE REMOVAL

Athletes, where possible, will be given at least thirty (30) days’ notice of move-out date if removed from the program early. Mid program move-outs may be issued to athletes who are no longer training, have suffered a long term injury, fail to make an international team (in applicable years), for non-compliance with rules and guidelines, or due to budget cuts. These athletes may receive a thirty (30) day move-out notice.

Immediate removal may occur for non-compliance with rules and guidelines, damage to CVEATC property, athlete safety violations, or for not meeting performance metrics at any time during the program. Athletes must take all belongings at the time of move out, ensure cleanliness of living areas, communicate their move-out date with USATF staff, check out with Senior Coach or assigned coach, and follow CVEATC check-out procedures. Extenuating circumstances for move-out will be considered, but resident application deadlines listed above are otherwise strict.

COMPETITION & ATHLETE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Athlete competition requirements will be outlined in each athlete’s personal performance plans. Athletes will be evaluated with proof of fitness test. Athletes must be able to maintain at least 88% of their standard during athlete evaluation periods in April and July. Athletes will be given at least seven days’ notice of proof of fitness test and any evaluations when possible.

TIER & TPP PROGRAM STATUS

Participation in the resident program is not a guarantee that an athlete will be selected to the Tier & Talent Protection Program (TPP), or to a World Para Athletics Championships, Paralympic Games or other major international competition team. To be named to these teams, an athlete must qualify through the respective selection procedures for each competition or selection process. Participation in the program does not affect Tier & TPP status or any of the related benefits, unless otherwise noted in the 2026 USATF Para Tier & Resource Guide. Participation in the program is voluntary and is contingent upon agreement to and compliance with the specific terms and conditions of the program.

ATHLETE BENEFITS

On Campus Athletes

The on campus resident program may serve up to eight athletes based on funding and gender make-up. Athletes accepted to the program as on-campus athletes will be eligible to receive the following benefits:

- Double occupancy room at the CVEATC (for full-time on-campus athletes only; roommate preferences are not guaranteed).
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided by CVEATC.
- CVEATC facility usage includes the track and field areas, strength and conditioning room, sports medicine, CVEATC athlete center, dining area, and other areas identified by CVEATC staff.
- In-person training led by assigned coaching personnel.
- Access to sports medicine, strength and conditioning, nutrition counseling, psychological services, and other sport performance services. Level of access for certain performance services may depend on athlete's Tier & TPP status.
- Entry fees paid for approved local competitions identified by athletes personal coach.
- Travel arrangements provided for approved competitions as a part of the resident program.
- Reimbursement of up to \$500 for athlete move-in to Chula Vista area in January for athletes who were not a part of the 2025 resident program, on or off campus. Athletes who were not a part of the program in 2025 may be reimbursed for up to \$500 for airfare cost, baggage fees, or mileage only for initial move-in. Athletes will only be reimbursed with submission of a reimbursement form and receipts submitted to Tanner Warmoth via email no later than January 31, 2026.

Off Campus Athletes

The off campus resident program may serve up to 10 athletes based on funding. Athletes accepted to the program as off-campus athletes will be eligible to receive the following benefits:

- CVEATC facility usage includes the track and field areas, strength and conditioning room, and sports medicine facility.
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided at CVEATC.
- In-person training led by assigned coaching personnel.
- Access to sports medicine, strength and conditioning, nutrition counseling, psychological services, and other sport performance services. Level of access for certain performance services may be dependent on Tier & TPP status.
- Reimbursement to attend specific approved competitions (to be identified by Senior Coach and/or in conjunction with assigned personal coach if applicable).

- Travel arrangements provided for approved competitions as a part of the resident program.
- Reimbursement of up to \$500 for athlete move-in to Chula Vista area in January for athletes who were not a part of the 2025 resident program, on or off campus. Athletes who were not a part of the program in 2025 may be reimbursed for up to \$500 for airfare cost, baggage fees, or mileage only for initial move-in. Athletes will only be reimbursed with submission of a reimbursement form and receipts submitted to Tanner Warmoth via email no later than January 31, 2026.

The following will not be covered for any athletes:

- Personal travel expenses throughout the year.
- Sponsor related travel expenses.
- Competition expenses not approved or supported by the program.
- Competition expenses/reimbursements for competitions in San Diego County or within 30 miles.
- Meals eaten outside of CVEATC (unless otherwise approved in advance by Director in writing).
- Gas/Mileage to local competitions within 30 miles of CVEATC.
- Gas/Mileage to and from offsite housing to CVEATC.
- Outside fitness memberships.

WAIVER AND PARTICIPATION FORMS

Upon acceptance into the program, all participants are required to sign the following forms:

- USATF Waiver and Code of Conduct Forms
- CVEATC Waiver
- Service Animal Agreement (if applicable)
- Resident Athlete Application
- Athlete Statement of Conditions Forms
- USOPC Participant Biography
- Medical History Questionnaire
- HIPAA Form
- Any additional documents/waivers required by USA Track & Field , USOPC or CVEATC not available at the time of application (athletes will be notified of additional documents/waivers that must be signed, i.e., unforeseen documents related to a pandemic or policy changes).

COACHING ASSIGNMENTS

All athletes will be assigned a coach by the Director, Paralympics following their acceptance into the resident program. Athletes who receive programing from a coach outside of the USATF Para program will not be accepted into the resident program and will be removed immediately. Athletes who are a part of the program are expected to work full time with their assigned coach. Coach Joaquim Cruz (Sprints, Wheelchair, Mid-Distance, Distance) and Coach Kris Mack (Sprint, Jumps) are currently the two coaches employed to work with the resident program athletes at CVEATC. Athlete assignments will come from the Director, Paralympics with athlete and coach input. It is not guaranteed that the athlete's requested and preferred coach will be their assigned coach while training at CVEATC.

All resident athletes will be expected to work full-time with strength and conditioning coach Gustavo Osorio while they are a participant of the resident program.

CVEATC RESIDENT MAXIMUM TIMEFRAME

The program has proven success, producing many athletes who have gone on to compete and medal at both Paralympic Games and world championships. To continue to develop our athletes and our sport, athletes selected to the on campus resident program may only remain a resident athlete on campus for a maximum of 4 years. A fifth year option will only be available in years in which the athlete's fifth year is a Paralympic Games year. Exceptions may be made to the maximum timeframe rule if open bed space is available. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis as determined by Director, Paralympics and USATF Para Athlete representative(s) on the Athletes' Commission or their designee(s).

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

All participants in the program are responsible for fulfilling program commitments and expectations. Failure to meet program expectations may result in removal from the program. Expectations laid out in this list may not be an exhaustive list.

CVEATC is a major funding investment for Para track and field, and we hold all athletes who are accepted at a high standard. Program expectations are as follows:

- Athletes are expected to cover their own expenses for moving to/from CVEATC. USATF Para will provide travel reimbursements (up to \$500) for initial move-in for athletes who were not a part of the 2025 program only; all other costs are the responsibility of the athlete.
- Off campus resident athletes are expected to cover the full cost of their housing, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses.
- Unless special circumstances are cited, resident programs will be awarded at Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center only.
- Athletes accepted into the on-campus program are expected to live and train at the training center full time, with their assigned coach (Coach Cruz and/or Coach Mack, and Coach Gustavo for strength and conditioning).
- Athletes are selected to the program to focus on full-time training in the sport of Para track and field only.
 - Athletes who are injured for an extended period where they cannot participate fully in the program (8 weeks or more) may be removed from the program.
- Except as stated above, Athletes who are injured are expected to remain active in the program to include attending training, rehab, therapy, etc., as prescribed by your doctor in communication with Para Team Physician and sports medicine at CVEATC.
- Athletes are selected to the program to focus on full-time training in the sport of Para track and field. Any involvement in school, sponsorships, employment, and/or volunteer schedules should be arranged around scheduled group training times. Any work schedules that require an athlete to depart designated training times early on a consistent basis must be approved in writing by the Director in advance.
- Each athlete must demonstrate progress in training and competition, including reaching performance metrics established by the athlete and Senior Coach in collaboration with the Director and any assigned coach for the year.
- Progress in World Para Athletics (WPA) world rankings will be a consideration in evaluating both program and individual resident athlete applications and renewals. Coaches will report each athlete's progress and specific performance standards throughout each year as determined by the Director. No fewer than the two evaluations are to be held annually.
- Athletes must always provide an assigned coach with notice at least 14 days in

advance for any personal or sponsor-related travel. Exceptions will be made for emergency travel, and athletes are expected to notify their assigned coach as soon as it is reasonable to do so.

- Athletes are expected to have a personal performance plan for their residency. Plans may address education, employment, community service opportunities, or other areas of interest to the athlete. All plans must be completed by Jan. 31.
- Athletes are expected to not share their personal badge or use their CVEATC access badge for any other athlete (in the program or not) or guest to access any areas of CVEATC including, but not limited to personal rooms, dining areas, and main entrance access.
- Each member of the program must complete a health profile, functional movement screens, and body analysis as soon as possible following their arrival and as necessary throughout residency.
- Athletes must communicate and respect individuality and shared spaces with other teammates.
- All new residents will be placed on a 90-day probation period. After 60 days, the Senior Coach will be asked to review the athlete's progress and acclimation to the program. This is designed to allow both the coach and the athlete to determine if the athlete has the potential to be successful, both in training and socially, within the structure of the current Para track and field resident program.
- Athletes are expected to communicate at least weekly with their assigned coach, attend all scheduled practices on time, and participate in all scheduled competitions throughout the Program Period unless excused by the Senior Coach or assigned in advance of the scheduled activity.
- Athlete attendance for training sessions including timeliness will be recorded by each assigned coach and reported to Director weekly beginning January 12, 2026.
- Athletes must attend other team activities (meetings, media training, community appearances, special events, etc.) as requested by the Senior Coach or Director in support of the Para track and field program.
- Athletes participating in the program are specifically prohibited from soliciting training programs and/or current program feedback from external coaches without inclusion of the assigned coach and Director in advance.
- All residents and program participants must maintain apartment, room, and property cleanliness always. This includes excess items being placed in storage paid for by the athlete if space is not available. All common areas within apartments should not contain any personal boxes, suitcases, excess storage boxes, etc. Exceptions will be granted within 30 days of moving in and within 30 days before moving out if the items do not present a safety hazard to suite mates.
- On campus residents are expected to be available for room checks as scheduled (at least one every other month) or as deemed necessary by CVEATC staff.
- Any issues that occur with other residents or staff must be reported to the Senior Coach, assigned coach, and/or Director within 24 hours.
- Guests are not allowed in an athlete's shared housing space at any time.
- Athletes who leave CVEATC for a period of two weeks or longer will be expected to remove all belongings from the room unless approved in advance by the Director. Exceptions will be made for family emergencies, travel with Para track and field to approved competitions, and structured time off as assigned by athlete's assigned coach and approved by Director. Time away from the program more than two weeks must be approved in writing to the assigned coach and Director.
- Athletes are expected to be mature and considerate roommates, responsible teammates, and represent USATF accordingly at the CVEATC and always.
- Athletes are expected to wear provided uniforms (if applicable) at official team or

resident team competitions and functions that are funded in any way by Para track and field (including reimbursed competitions).

- Athletes who are injured are expected to be active participants during recovery. This includes remaining at CVEATC to attend scheduled sports medicine treatments, strength and conditioning session attendance as approved by sports medicine, and regular in person check-ins with assigned coach during scheduled training sessions.

REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM

Athlete participation in the program may be terminated at any time by USATF in its sole discretion. Athletes, where possible, will be given at least thirty (30) days' notice of move-out date if removed from the program early. Athletes may receive a thirty (30) day move-out notice mid-program if they are no longer training and/or competing, fail to make the applicable international teams for the year, or exhibit non-compliance with rules and guidelines or budget cuts.

Immediate removal may occur for non-compliance with rules and guidelines, possession of drugs or weapons on campus, athlete safety violations, or for not meeting performance metrics at any time during the program. Athletes must take all belongings at the time of move out, ensure cleanliness of living areas, communicate their move-out date with USATF Para staff, check out with Senior Coach or assigned coach, and follow CVEATC check-out procedures.

The examples below are not an exhaustive list that may cause removal. Notice of removal from the program will be provided to the athlete in writing and will be effective immediately upon such notice or as specified in the notice. Removal from the program may result from any of the following or any other reason, as determined by the Director:

I understand that removal from the program may result from any of the following:

- Failure to meet the requirements to qualify for the Tier & TPP program.
- Failure to keep room and common areas clean in assigned suites at CVEATC.
- Failure to qualify for world championships, Parapan Games and/or Paralympic Games teams.
- Failure to attend daily scheduled training, sports medicine treatments as assigned, and strength and conditioning sessions.
- Failure to attend scheduled training sessions on time.
- Failure to meet performance metrics or other elements of the athlete's personal performance plan.
- Failure to comply with USATF Agreements, Code of Conduct, CVEATC Code of Conduct, CVEATC Rules and Guidelines, U.S. Center for SafeSport policies, USATF Safe Sport policies, USATF Bylaws & Regulations, Para track and field program plan, and team policies.
- Consistent complaints from athletes and disruptions to other resident athletes, CVEATC program participants in other sports, etc.
- Violation of USADA/WADA Anti-Doping policies, which may include a failed test, missed test or non-compliance with quarterly whereabouts filing updates.
- Persistent incompatibility with the coaching staff, USATF Para staff, USOPC staff, CVEATC staff, and/or other resident athletes that detracts from the training or performance of any member of the CVEATC community.
- Providing personal CVEATC access badges to or allowing other athletes or guests to access CVEATC, personal rooms and/or dining where an emergency is not present.

- Long-term illness or injury that does not allow athlete to be an active participant in regular training sessions.
- Inability to maintain self-care and independence.
- Failure to comply with requests of USATF, USOPC, CVEATC staff or coaches representing the program.
- Failure to remain compliant with USATF, USOPC and/or CVEATC policies, rules and guidelines.
- Recommendation of CVEATC staff for violation of CVEATC policies.

Failure to comply with the rules, expectations, and/or policies, where immediate removal is not warranted, may lead to the following actions:

1. **First offense:** A written reprimand from USATF and/or EAS/CVEATC staff will be issued with notice of the potential outcomes for any further offenses.
2. **Second offense:** Athletes access will be temporarily revoked. On Campus Athletes: Removal from on campus housing and facility access at CVEATC for five (5) days effective immediately. The athlete will be responsible for the full cost of offsite housing, meals, and transportation during the removal period. USATF may, but is not required to, provide outside housing support for the first (1st) night of removal. Special considerations may be made depending on the infraction for continued onsite sports medicine support as recommended by the sports medicine team.
3. **Third offense:** Athlete will be removed from the Program. On & Off Campus Athletes: Immediate removal from the CVEATC resident program to include dining, facility access, strength & conditioning support, housing support, sports medicine in person support.

STAFF

If you have any questions about the program or the guidelines, please contact one of the USATF Para staff members below:

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