



2026 Goalball Youth World Championship

USA Athlete Recruitment Process

Athletes who wish to be considered for the US Youth World Championship team must meet basic minimum requirements and follow the process outlined below.

Minimum Requirements

1. Athletes must be US citizens.
2. Athletes must possess (or obtain prior to travel) a valid US passport with expiration date later than June 5, 2027.
3. Male athletes must be born in 2005 or later.
4. Female athletes must be born in 2003 or later.
5. Athletes under 18 years of age must have written permission from a parent or guardian to compete.
6. Athletes must be members in good standing of USABA.
7. Athletes must be able to be classified for competition according to IBSA visual classification standards.
8. Athletes must be willing to sign and abide by an athlete code of conduct agreement.
9. Athletes must commit to assisting in fundraising efforts for the team.

Recruitment Process

1. Athletes must complete the USA Goalball 2026 Youth World Championships Interest Survey by March 31, 2026. [Survey Link](#)
2. Athletes must participate in the Southeast Regional Tournament to be held in Atlanta Georgia May 29-31, 2026. Athletes may register with a team or as a pool player. Youth National Team coaches will also be

attending this tournament to evaluate potential recruits. Athletes are responsible for their own costs to participate.

3. Athletes must provide a signed IBSA Medical Diagnosis Form OR documentation from an ophthalmologist that clearly states their diagnosis, visual acuity and visual field to the Youth Worlds Team Leader not later than May 31, 2026.
4. Team selection will occur before June 5, 2026. The coaching staff will select team members based on athlete performance at competitions, ability to meet IBSA visual classification standards, and team needs.
5. 2026 USA Youth National Team members will be required to complete, at a minimum, the administrative tasks listed below. Assistance from USABA staff will be provided, but athletes will be expected to complete tasks in a timely manner.
 - a. Ensure current USABA membership status
 - b. Complete IBSA athlete registration
 - c. Obtain a current IBSA Medical Diagnosis Form from their ophthalmologist by September 20, 2026
 - d. Provide medical information as required by the team doctor
 - e. Obtain a passport
 - f. Sign Code of Conduct paperwork
 - g. Obtain written parental permission if applicable
6. Travel to and from Astana Kazakhstan takes more than 24 hours. Athletes should expect to depart as early as November 23, 2026 and return as late as December 7, 2026. The team will meet at a staging site in the US and travel as a group to and from Kazakhstan.

If you have questions, please contact the 2026 USA Goalball Youth World Championships team leader Karen Zabel at khzabel@gmail.com or by phone at 317-979-2077.