



# Understanding Selection Procedures – Staff & Athletes

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This document serves as a **general guide** and provides a **non-exhaustive overview** of the Selection Procedure creation process. Each specific event may have unique requirements dictated by international governing bodies (such as World Taekwondo (WT), Pan Am Taekwondo Union (PATU), U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, or the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for example) that are not covered in this summary.

## What are Selection Procedures?

Selection Procedures are the **official rules** that define exactly how an athlete or staff member earns a spot on Team USA. They serve as a transparent guide, outlining the specific tournaments you must attend, the medals you must win, and the administrative requirements (like citizenship or weight class) necessary to represent the United States on the world stage.

## Why Do They Matter?

These documents exist to remove guesswork and ensure a "level playing field." Their importance lies in three key areas:

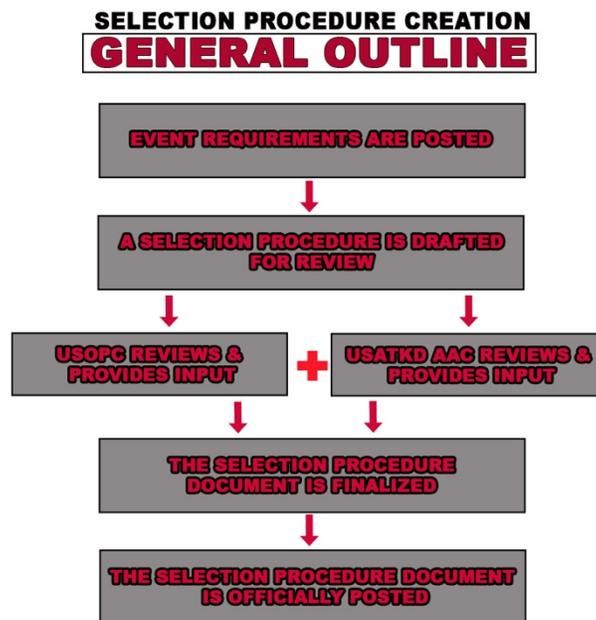
- **Fairness:** By involving athlete representatives and the USOPC in the drafting process, we ensure the rules are unbiased and consistent.
- **Performance:** The procedures are designed to identify the athletes most likely to stand on the international podium and bring home medals for the U.S.
- **Timeliness:** All dates, and documents, are posted to properly communicate and requirements to members in a timely manner.
- **Transparency:** Every athlete knows the rules of engagement in advance.

## What's The Difference Between Selection Procedures & Pathways?

While they work together, the distinction is simple: a Pathway is the overall journey and developmental strategy designed to move an athlete from the start of the competition season to the biggest USATKD events, while a Selection Procedure is the specific, officially vetted rulebook for an official USATKD Team. Think of the Pathway as the "map" that builds your skills over years, and the Selection Procedure as the "specific requirements" for a National Teams on that map.

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# How Selection Procedures are Created



## 1. Drafting the document

The USATKD High Performance Team drafts the document based on the specific needs of the event. Requirements vary significantly depending on the "type" of the tournament:

- **Non-Protected Events:** (e.g., Cadet Pan Am Championships) Generally have simpler entry requirements and fewer, or no layers of approval.
- **Protected Events & Games:** (e.g., Olympic Games, Pan Am Games) These carry the strictest regulations from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and USOPC.

### A few examples of Common elements in a draft:

- **Quota:** Exactly how many spots are available (e.g., one athlete per weight class).
- **Qualification Path:** Which specific tournaments an athlete must medal at to be named to the team.
- **Eligibility:** Essential "must-haves" like a valid U.S. Passport or WT Global Athlete License.
- **Age:** What age group is this for.
- **Timelines:** All the important dates moving forward to be nominated to a team.
- **Discretionary Elements:** Any parts of the process that require discretionary elements, including how and who is involved in the decision.

## 2. Collaborative Input

The designated committee that creates official Selection Procedures is comprised of USATKD High Performance, and an USOPC/USAT Athlete Commission representative collaborate to create documents. This committee is comprised of:

- 1) Stephen Lambdin, Chief Performance Officer, USATKD
- 2) Eric Winger, Director of National Teams, USATKD
- 3) Alex Lee, USOPC Athlete Commission Representative.

Before a document is finalized, it undergoes a rigorous review to ensure it is balanced and athlete-focused:

- **The Athlete Voice:** A member of the **Athlete Commission (AC)**. This representative is an athlete elected by their peers to the AC reviews and signs off on the document to ensure the athletes' interests are protected. This representative can include input from other members of the commission as well. You can find more about the Athlete Commission here: <https://www.usatkd.org/athlete-advisory-council-information>
- **USOPC Oversight:** For major events, the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee must provide final approval, ensuring the document meets national standards for fairness and clarity. All Selection Procedure documents must be submitted in a timely manner for approval before publication based on required deadlines from both the event, and USOPC requirements.

## 3. Publication & Updates

Once signed by all required parties, the document is posted on the USATKD website for public access. USATKD posts all official Selection Procedure and any necessary documents for National Teams here: <https://www.usatkd.org/team-selection-procedures>

- **Staying Current:** If an international body (like World Taekwondo) changes rules mid-season, the document is updated with "**redlines**" (visible tracked changes).
- **Transparency:** Reposted documents always include a summary of changes and the date of the update so athletes can adjust their plans accordingly.
- **Timeline:** All documents are properly communicated and published in a timely manner. Selection Procedures are posted to both USATKD's website, and when relevant USATKD social media (USATKD's official Facebook page, etc.) to spread awareness of the document.

## Questions?

USATKD High Performance and the USATKD Athlete Commission is always happy to answer membership questions as athletes and coaches work to represent Team USA at the highest levels! If you have a question, please use the contact information below:

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