

# USA Taekwondo

## Kyorugi Athlete Selection Procedures

### 2026 Youth Olympic Games

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- Publication Date: June 11, 2026

#### SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the 2026 Youth Olympic Games (Games) in Dakar, Senegal for USA Taekwondo (USATKD) in Kyorugi (sparring). The maximum Team size can be ten (10) athletes, five (5) female and five (5) male athletes; however final Team size will depend on quota assigned by World Taekwondo (WT). World Taekwondo awards quota spots by country.

Only one (1) quota spot was provided to the USA for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in the female 55kg weight division. Athletes must be within 49.1kg to 55.0kg.

#### SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
  - Have a valid United States passport at the time of nomination that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) Requirements:
  - Abide by the rules in the Olympic Charter, including nationality/citizenship requirements.
    - For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the [Olympic Charter](#) (Rule 41).
  - Abide by the IOC Eligibility of Conditions Form/Conditions of Participation Form.
3. Organizing Committee Olympic Games (OCOG) Requirements:
  - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the OCOG for Dakar 2026.
4. Minimum World Taekwondo (WT) Requirements:
  - Abide by World Taekwondo rules including nationality/citizenship
  - Comply with all WT eligibility requirements found here: [WT Rules and Regulations](#)
  - Athlete must have an active WT Global Athlete License (GAL).
  - Comply with all WT eligibility requirements which will be posted here once available: <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/youth-olympic-games>
  - Athletes cannot be older than 17 years old at the time of the closing ceremony of the Games.
5. USOPC Requirements:
  - Comply with all USOPC rules applicable to the Games (e.g., Demonstrations).
  - Complete all USOPC Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline.
  - Comply with the USOPC Delegation Terms, including the Conduct Requirements, which will be made available here: <https://www.usopc.org/games-and-qualification>
  - Comply with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) including education and training requirements.

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- Comply with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
6. USATKD Requirements:
- Athlete must have an active USATKD membership
  - Comply with the [USATKD Code of Conduct](#).
  - Comply with the [USATKD SafeSport Policy](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) including education and training requirements.
  - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
  - Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
  - Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, WT and/or the OCOG.
  - Athlete must compete in the World Class Black Belt division and hold a taekwondo Dan certificate issued by Kukkiwon or [World Taekwondo \(Article 4.1.3\)](#).

### **SECTION 3: OTHER MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEAM**

- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all IOC, WT, USADA, WADA, and USOPC 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 the IOC, WT, USADA, WADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable.
- Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, USOPC, WT and/or the OCOG.

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#### SECTION 4: EVALUATION EVENTS

Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the nomination process:

DATE(S)	EVENT NAME/LOCATION
July 1, 2026	U.S. National Taekwondo Championships/Youth Olympic Games Team Trials- Charlotte, North Carolina

#### SECTION 5: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the WT Qualification System.

##### 5.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

Only one (1) quota spot was provided to the USA for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in the female 55kg weight division. Athletes must be within 49.1kg to 55.0kg.

##### 5.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

The Youth Olympic Games Team Trials will take place on July 1, 2026 at the U.S. National Taekwondo Championships in Charlotte, North Carolina. This will be an open Team Trials and no qualification will be required.

Athletes must compete in the Junior division and must be born between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010.

Athletes who have already qualified for the [U.S. National Taekwondo Championships](#) through a state championship or American Open tournament, can register for the open Youth Olympic Games Team Trials. Athletes who have not qualified for the [U.S. National Taekwondo Championships](#), may submit their information online at <https://usat.wufoo.com/forms/qwizxty02ibv76/>.

Athletes who complete the online form will be invited to register for the [U.S. National Taekwondo Championships](#). Athletes may also email [ewininger@usatk.org](mailto:ewininger@usatk.org) if they have not received an invitation to register to the U.S. National Taekwondo Championships. Once registered to the U.S. National Taekwondo Championships, athletes may then register for the Youth Olympic Games Team Trials.

Trials competition format:

- a. If there are 2 athletes in the division, then the division will follow a “Best of 3”

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competition system.

- b. If there are 3 or 4 athletes in the division, then the division will follow a “Round Robin” competition system.
- c. If there are 5 or more athletes in the division, then the division will follow a “Single Elimination Bracket” competition system.

A “bronze medal” repechage match will be held to determine the finishing order when the division has 4 or more athletes.

#### **5.3 NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:**

The winner of the Female 55 kg division at the Youth Olympic Games Team Trials during the U.S. National Taekwondo Championships, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, in Charlotte, North Carolina will be nominated to the 2026 Youth Olympic Games Team.

**In the event of a conflict between this overview and the WT Qualification System, the WT Qualification System will take precedence.**

For more details, please refer to the WT Qualification System which will be posted here once available:  
<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/youth-olympic-games>

## **SECTION 6: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES**

### **6.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:**

Not Applicable

### **6.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:**

Not Applicable

### **6.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Not Applicable

## **SECTION 7: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of all mandatory training and/or competition for athletes who are nominated to the Team.

There are no required trainings or competitions anticipated for the athlete nominated to the Team.

## **SECTION 8: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION**

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Nomination of athletes, including any replacements/alternates will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before September 1, 2026.

## SECTION 9: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

### 9.1 USATKD JURISDICTION

USATKD has jurisdiction over athlete nominees until athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG.

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USATKD:
  - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the USA Taekwondo CEO, Steve McNally ([smcnally@usatkd.org](mailto:smcnally@usatkd.org)), or Director of National Teams, Eric Wininger ([ewininger@usatkd.org](mailto:ewininger@usatkd.org)) requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
  - ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USATKD provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they may be removed from the Team.
  - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
  - iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the USATKD Code of Conduct [Code of Conduct](#).
  - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed USATKD Athlete Agreement.
  - vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 2 and Section 3 of these selection procedures.
- b. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated IOC, WT, USADA, WADA, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and the USATKD SafeSport policies, as applicable.

### 9.2 USOPC JURISDICTION

- a. Once Athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team.
- b. USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply in addition to the USATKD Code of Conduct. The Delegation Conduct Requirements in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and are made available during the Games registration process.
- c. The USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the USOPC Dispute Resolution Policy and Hearing Procedures.
  - i. See [www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution](http://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution) for more information.

## SECTION 10: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO

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#### SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

10.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the OCOG, the next highest-placed eligible athlete, according to Section 5.3 will be nominated to the Team. Replacement will not extend beyond the fourth highest-placed eligible athlete at Trials.

All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 2-3.

#### SECTION 11: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

11.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by the USOPC to the OCOG, if allowed, USATKD will follow the process outlined in section 10.1.

11.2 Any replacement of athletes must comply with these selection procedures in addition to IOC, USOPC, and WT regulations including applicable Late Athlete Replacement (LAR) policies.

11.3 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 2-3.

#### SECTION 12: RIGHT TO A HEARING

An athlete who is removed from the Team has the right to a hearing per the USATKD's [Complaint and Hearing Procedures](#) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9 (<https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>).

#### SECTION 13: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Delegation Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Games:

- [USATKD Code of Ethics](#)
- USATKD Athlete Agreement

#### SECTION 14: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on IOC and WT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or WT rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USATKD.

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However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. If any force of nature, pandemic, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the evaluation events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions.

#### SECTION 15: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 20) must comply with the USATKD [Conflict of Interest Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USATKD Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USATKD Ethics Committee. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USATKD Selection Committee appointment process.

#### SECTION 16: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures.

Name: Eric Wininger

Position: Director of National Teams

Email: [ewininger@usatk.org](mailto:ewininger@usatk.org)

Name: Alex Lee

Position: Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative

Email: [alexlee.usa@gmail.com](mailto:alexlee.usa@gmail.com)

#### SECTION 17: GRIEVANCES

The USATKD Grievance Procedures can be [found here](#) (see Ethics & Judicial Committees - Complaints & Hearing Policy).

Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws provides a process for an athlete to file a complaint with the USOPC against an NGB alleging that he or she has been denied, or threatened to be denied, with the opportunity to participate in a Protected Competition, as defined in the USOPC bylaws. Additional information on how to file a complaint can be found here: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>.

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#### SECTION 18: NON-RETALIATION

The USOPC and USATKD have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or USATKD staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

- Individuals may report concerns to USATKD by following the [USATKD Whistleblower Policy](#).
- Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.
- Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

#### SECTION 19: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS


USATKD will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process as required by the USATKD's Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the 2026 Youth Olympic Games, whichever is longer.

#### SECTION 20: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Stephen Lambdin	CPO, USATKD
Eric Winingger	Director of National Teams, USATKD
Alex Lee	10 Year Athlete Representative

The following individual approved these selection procedures and through their signature, certifies that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by WT. The following individual further certifies that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USATKD and that these selection procedures will be posted on the USATKD [website](#).

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USATKD Chief Executive Officer	Steve McNally		6/10/26

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The following individual affirms that they read and understand the selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	Alex Lee	<i>Alex Lee</i>	6/10/26

\* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representatives have delegated authority to another 10 Year Athlete Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected Team USA AC Representative, USATKD must designate a 10 Year Athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

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#### APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

**AAC** – Athletes' Advisory Council

**AC** – Athletes' Commission

**Act or TSOASA** – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

**APC** – Americas Paralympic Committee

**CAS** – Court of Arbitration for Sport

**Center or CSS** – U.S. Center for SafeSport

**CF** – Continental Federation

**IMS** – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

**IOC** – International Olympic Committee

**IPC** – International Paralympic Committee

**IF** – International Federation

**LOC** – Local Organizing Committee

**NGB** – National Governing Body

**NOC** – National Olympic Committee

**NPC** – National Paralympic Committee

**OCOG** – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. The OCOG refers to the Organizing Committee of the Paralympic Games as well.

**PAG** – Pan American Games

**Panam Sports or PASO** – Pan American Sports Organization

**PPAG** – Parapan American Games

**PSO** – Paralympic Sport Organization

**TEAM USA AC** – Team USA Athletes' Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

**USADA** – United States Anti-Doping Agency

**WADA** – World Anti-Doping Agency

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#### APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

**Contingency** means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

**Delegation Event** means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

**Force Majeure** means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

**Grievance Procedures** means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

**Jurisdiction** means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

**Nominated** means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted to the USOPC by an NGB for participation in the Games.

**Protected Competition** means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

**Qualifying Competition** means either of the following:

- i. **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- ii. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

**Selected** means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG at the final submission date, as determined by the OCOG.

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#### APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

##### **RAINN HOTLINE** (Formerly SAFESPORT HELPLINE)

RAINN, the National Sexual Assault Hotline, provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Hotline at 1-800-656-4673 or visit <https://rainn.org/>.

##### **TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC)** (Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: [www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission](http://www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission)

##### **TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at [psychservices@usopc.org](mailto:psychservices@usopc.org), or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit [www.usopc.org/mental-health](http://www.usopc.org/mental-health) for information about all available resources or complete our [referral link](#) to get connected.

##### **USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)**

For Protected Competitions, USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).

##### **USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE**

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

##### **USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL**

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 877-404-9935.