



USA Team Handball
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2024 Wheelchair Handball IHF World Championship
June 28, 2024

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the event.

1.1.2. Minimum International Handball Federation standards for participation:

Any competitor in the North American and Caribbean Handball Confederation World Championship Qualification tournament must be a national of the country of the National Federation (USA Team Handball) which is entering such competitor. Any competitor must be eligible to represent the United States of America as per the International Handball Federation Player Eligibility Code.

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or Continental Federation (CF) (NAHC and PASO only) standards for participation (if any):

Athletes must be at least 16 years old at the start of competition.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athletes must meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, USOPC, the IF and/or the local organizing committee. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- Athletes under the age of 18 will be required to take the Safe Sport course for minors.



1.2. Tryout Events:

USATH's selection criteria is a dynamic process whereby all available and eligible athletes are assessed in all below listed activities, including upcoming activities as posted on the USATH website.

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

July 5 - 7, 2024 - Auburn, AL

Virtual Video Submission Evaluation - Ends on July 21, 2024 at 5 PM CST

August 2 - 4, 2024 - Auburn, AL - Invite Only

August 30 - September 1 - Birmingham, AL - Invite Only

Athletes are selected to the pool by the National Team Head Coach (in consultation with the National Teams coaching staff and high performance staff). High Performance staff will evaluate, collect and analyze information about an athlete's performance for placement in the pool.

Athletes who are member of the pool may include the following:

- Athletes selected as a member of a USA Team Handball Wheelchair National Team
- Athletes identified through performance in other transferable adaptive sports.
- Athletes identified by submitting videos or other relevant data to the National Team coaching and high-performance staff

The events at which athletes will be evaluated are subject to change. Dates for any events, trials or camps will be announced and posted on USATH's website <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball> at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the evaluations and events. The athletes will be advised of any change in events at which they will be evaluated at least fourteen (14) days prior to such event.

1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in section 1.2.1

The following athletes are eligible for selection to the 2024 Wheelchair National Team Pool:

- i. Athletes identified through performance in other transferable adaptive sports.
- ii. Athletes identified by submitting videos or other relevant data to the National Team coaching and high-performance staff
- iii. Athletes invited to a USA Team Wheelchair Training Camp during the 2024 period.



1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for this event(include maximum Team size):

At the Evaluative activities described above, one (1) or more members of the Selection Committee (SC) will observe and evaluate athletes. Observation and evaluation duties may be divided among the members of the SC and each member's observations will be reported to the other members of the committee. Athletes will be observed and evaluated in accordance with procedures outlined herein using the selection criteria. It is intended that the observation and evaluation of athletes will be an ongoing process.

As indicated in these Selection Procedures, it is possible that each athlete being considered in selection to the Team may not have been observed at the same evaluative events or as many evaluative events as other athletes also being considered for the Team.

Selection Criteria:

In selecting athletes to be members of the Team, the SC will consider information, specifically observations and statistical evaluations, both objective and discretionary data will be utilized.

1. Preference will be given to those athletes with National Team experience
2. Athletes will be evaluated on competencies in the following areas with additional accounting for level of competitive play:
 - Positive/Negative individual action
 - Positive/ Negative collaboration action
 - Positive/Negative Team action
 - Positive/Negative Specialized action
 - Follow-Up action

Description of the actions:

Phases: Attack: Turnovers/Shots/Blocks/Off-Target actions/Penalties

Defense: Defensive Impact Zones, Defensive's duel readiness, Interceptions (dynamic vs static), Collaboration with the goalie, Zonal Collaboration, transformations, and permutes.

Goalkeeping: fastbreak initiation, Goal Impact zones' success, Saving percentages, shots on goal.

Technical Gestures per positions:

- a. Backcourts: Shot, breakthrough actions, 1-on-1 actions, collaboration actions. Positional play readiness, and execution of set plays.
- b. Pivots: adaptability, somatic control, multidimensional receptions, blocks, Ideal use of space, collaboration with first line of attack, and 6 meters shot's efficacy.
- c. Wing: counterattack readiness, aborted fastbreaks, positive fastbreaks' efficiency, corner shots, 1-on-1 actions, transformations to backcourt and to second pivots.
- d. Goalkeeping: Saving efficacy per goal's zones, effective use of the goal area, efficiency on outside shots, breakthrough shots and through shots, fastbreak initiation, and technical-tactical readiness, use of defense, and shots on goal.



Key Attributes:

- a. Preferred Hand
- b. Preferred position
- c. International Level Handball Specific Fitness
- d. International Competitive Readiness

Other Attributes:

- a. teamwork,
- b. coachability
- c. attitude
- d. mental toughness

On or before the nomination date, the SC will select 10 athletes per IHF rules, from among the Pool, to the Team. The selections will be based on the selection criteria (Section 1.3, Section 2, Appendix B and Appendix C) and include the cumulative statistical, video tape, written, and observational evaluations from the SC.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

The sport of team handball is not a measured or timed event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. The fact that various positions on the team (offense, goalkeeper, defense) require different physical and mental attributes must be considered. It is the belief of the SC that considering the mix of Selection Criteria, which includes discretionary components in evaluation of performance ability and listed considerations, will result in selection of the best athletes, who will work together as an effective team, to continue the success of this program.

2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any):

In selecting athletes to be members of the Team, the SC will consider information, specifically observation and statistical evaluation, of both objective and discretionary nature, that pertains to the criteria listed here and in Section 1.3 in the categories of Offensive Performance. The selection procedures of a team handball player has to concern itself with the individual's overall performance and his/her contribution to the performance of the team as a whole in interaction with the other players. Cumulative Performance Evaluation, and/or systematic participation will be considered as a fundamental requirement for selection.



- 2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

The USA Team Handball Selection Committee (SC), which includes the requisite minimum of 33.3% percent of athlete representation, is responsible for making all athlete selections for the Team.

Selection Committee:

Wheelchair National Team Coach
Athlete Representative
Athlete Representative
USATH Representative Staff Member (non-voting)

- 2.3.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All members of the selection committee must comply with the NGB/PSO's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the NGB/PSO's Ethics Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the NGB/PSO's Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse him/herself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the NGB/PSO's Ethics Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse him/herself from voting, the Ethics Committee may still determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long



as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to NGB/PSO's Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. 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 NGB/PSO selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee, the NGB/PSO has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is nominated to the Team by USA Team Handball may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Team Handball:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Team Handball CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Team Handball. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Team Handball, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the USA Team Handball Code of Conduct (Appendix A).
- 3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.1.6. An athlete selected as a member of the Team, may be recommended for removal from the Team by the selection committee for any action determined by the selection committee to be detrimental to a Team, USA Team Handball or any USA Team Handball athlete, coach or staff member. If an athlete is recommended for removal from the Team, he/she will receive written notification of such removal recommendation from the selection committee in advance of the USATH CEO's approval of his or her removal.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Team Handball's Bylaws, Article 14 or the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.



- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable NGB/PSO Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms made available prior to the respective Games; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures can be found at: www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USA Team Handball's SafeSport policies, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The SC will from initial selection, identify potential replacements for each position. The selection committee using the criteria in Sections 1.3. and 2. shall fill the vacancy with an athlete that best meets the criteria needed to fulfill game strategy.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The SC will from initial selection, identify potential replacements for each position. The selection committee using the criteria in Sections 1.3. and 2. shall fill the vacancy with an athlete that best meets the criteria needed to fulfill game strategy.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Team Handball will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the qualification tournament.



6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the documents listed in Appendix A are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the NACHC World Championship Qualification Team.

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Team Handball in the following public location(s):

7.1. NGB/PSO Web site: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball>.

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted on or before:

September 3, 2024

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

A specific training program will be developed for athletes selected to the Team. Once the program is developed, affected athletes will be informed as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days prior, regarding mandatory training, or competitions. Each member of the selected Team is expected to participate in the developed program of training.

All requests for waivers from participation in mandatory events must be presented to the selection committee in writing prior to the event. As soon as practical after receipt of the request, the selection committee will review the request and approve or deny it. All waivers must be granted by the selection committee in writing.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.



11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- a. Ford Dyke, Wheelchair National Team Head Coach
- b. Mart Ortega, Athlete representative
- c. Martin Branick, CEO

12. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Team Handball Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-team-handball/about/governance/corporate-documents>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, as applicable, and/or the International Handball Federation rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, as applicable, and/or your IF/CF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Team Handball. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances and, realistically, may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB/PSO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org



15. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by NGB/PSO.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
Martin Branick CEO/Executive Director	Martin Branick	DocuSigned by: <i>Martin Branick</i> C54F9D3F36D8450...	7/4/2024
Ford Dyke Nat. Team Coach	Ford Dyke	DocuSigned by: <i>Ford Dyke</i> DB4C1AAB0925442...	7/4/2024
Mark Ortega USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Mark Ortega	DocuSigned by: <i>MOA</i> CA6F1AA7AADF41C...	7/4/2024

* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the NGB/PSO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.



Appendix A

Policies of USATH that athletes must adhere to can be found here:

[Corporate Documentss \(teamusa.org\)](https://teamusa.org)

These policies include the following:

Code of Conduct

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Whistle Blower Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy



Appendix B

Recognizing that a Team is more than the skills brought by its individual players, the Selection Committee will consider the mix of players in terms of positions, balance of sport classes, experience, match-up vs. international opponents, consistently demonstrating the potential to perform at an elite level, team needs, and player qualities beyond statistics and technical skills that contribute to the overall team's success.

Expectations

Players are expected to:

- possess individual fundamental skills;
- possess team skills;
- place team goals ahead of personal goals;
- be quick, fast, and well-conditioned enabling the team to play the up-tempo, full-court style of play necessary for success on the international stage;
- demonstrate the capacity to sustain elite performance throughout the tournament/camp;
- be able to play with and without the ball, and;
- demonstrate the capacity to learn and implement new concepts on the court.

Other Considerations

- Balance of expertise in positions and roles
- Presence of experience and leadership
- Player interactions and team cohesiveness both on and off the court
- Player ability to respect the coaches, staff, and other players
- Player exhibited maturity on and off the court
- Individual player performance and statistics from scrimmages
- Testing results

Specific Skills

Ball handling skills

- Can dribble the ball with dominant and non-dominant hand while moving
- Can pass with dominant and non-dominant hand
- Uses a variety of passes
- Can pass to all classes
- Passes away from the defense

Chair skills

- Speed: top end
- Moves chair under control



- Quickness: ability to get started from a stopped position and get to top end speed
- Ability to change directions
- Ability to avoid contact
- Ability to use proper angles

Shooting

- Accuracy
- Range
- Can shoot with non-dominant hand

Team Player

- How do they work with others?
- Are they working 1x1 or within the offense?
- Will they work to get someone else the shot?
- are they looking for the best shot or their shot?

Defense

- Chair position
- Communicating with others
- Switching
- Identifies threats



Appendix C

The following drills and situations will be a critical part of the performance testing for all athletes. Specific details regarding the testing will be provided directly to athletes either during a physical try out or virtually.

6M-6M-6M Sprint

T-Test

7M Shot Accuracy

9M Position Shot Accuracy

Goal to Goal Shot Accuracy