



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee



USA Team Handball

Athlete Selection Beach Senior National Team

Procedures-Women's

2026 IHF Senior Women Beach Handball World Championships - Croatia

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

a. Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Athletes

To be considered for nomination to the team, an athlete must meet the following criteria:

1. Nationality and Passport Requirements

- Must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.
- Must hold a valid U.S. passport that does not expire for six months after the competition.

2. International Federation and/or NACHC Requirements

- Must be a national of the U.S. and a member of USA Team Handball (USATH).
- Must meet all participation standards set by the International Handball Federation (IHF) and the North American and Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC).
- Must be at least 16 years old at the time of the competition.

3. Other Requirements

- Must be a member in good standing with USATH.
- Athletes aged 18 or older must undergo a background screening per USOPC policies.
- Athletes aged 18 or older must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training.

b. Evaluation

Athlete selection is a dynamic process, and all eligible athletes will be continuously evaluated in various activities.

- Virtual Submissions to the Selection Committee
- Athletes may also be assessed at domestic or international beach handball events, including leagues, tournaments, camps, or other organized activities.

The specific dates and locations of any official tryouts or evaluations scheduled for the purpose of this selection will be posted on USATH's website at least 14 days in advance.



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Athletes identified through ongoing competitive international potential Team Pool.

scouting who demonstrate may be invited to join the National

2. SELECTION CRITERIA

Athletes will be evaluated based on:

- Performance in:
 - Individual actions (positive and negative)
 - Team collaboration (positive and negative)
 - Specialized skills (goalkeeping, pivot, wing, specialist roles)
- Tactical and technical proficiency, including:
 - Attack efficiency (shots, assists, turnovers, execution of set plays)
 - Defensive effectiveness (interceptions, blocking, positioning)
 - Goalkeeping ability (shot-stopping, fastbreak initiation, situational awareness)
- Preferred hand and position
- Handball-specific fitness and international competition readiness
- Key attributes: teamwork, coachability, attitude, mental toughness

3. SELECTION PROCESS

The Women's Beach National Team Selection Committee (WBNTSC) will evaluate athletes based on a combination of observed performance, video submissions, and statistical analysis. The final roster will consist of 10 athletes, with additional athletes named as alternates.

a. Discretionary Selection

Given the team-based nature of handball, discretionary selection may be used. This allows for:

- Balancing team dynamics across positions.
- Selecting players with high tactical adaptability.
- Competitively-valuable prior experience, particularly in international competition.
- Long-term Sustainability of the national team program

Athletes must utilize the portal on usateamhandball.sport80.com to submit their name candidacy for selection by May 1, 2026. The roster will be named no later than May 17, 2026.



3.1 Selection Committee

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To be composed of three (3) voting members, including one (1) athlete representative selected by the Team Handball Athletes' Advisory Council, two (2) technical and/or coaching personnel, and a non-voting staff member.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/ herself from committee discussions and voting. Furthermore, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance (ex: a national team coach or high performance director) may provide such information to the committee if requested by the selection committee, so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

4. REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

An athlete may be removed for:

- Voluntary withdrawal (must be submitted in writing to the USATH CEO).
- Injury or illness verified by a USATH-approved physician.
- Violation of the USATH Code of Conduct.
- Any action deemed detrimental to the team.

Replacements will be selected from the alternates list based on team needs. Should the alternate list be exhausted a replacement can be made from the athletes that submitted their candidacy for the selection in accordance with the selection procedure.

5. RELEVANT POLICIES

Athletes must adhere to all USATH policies throughout selection and competition; These policies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Code of Conduct
- Anti-Discrimination Policy
- Whistle Blower Policy
- Social Media Comment Policy
- USATH Bylaws
- Conflict of Interest Policy

These can be found at <https://www.usateamhandball.org/about/governance/corporate->



documents.

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6. 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 end date of the competition.

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USATH approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Team Handball in the following locations:

NGB Website: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball>.

8. MANDATORY TRAINING AND COMPETITION

Selected athletes must participate in mandatory training and preparatory events. Waivers may be granted by WBNTSC in exceptional circumstances.

9. ANTI-DOPING AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Athletes must comply with all applicable anti-doping rules and testing requirements established by **WADA, IHF, USADA, the USOPC**, and any other relevant governing bodies, including out-of-competition testing requirements.

Grievance and dispute resolution procedures are governed by the **USA Team Handball Bylaws, Article 14**, and applicable USOPC regulations.

10. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by NGB/ HP MO may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at

<https://www.teamusa.org/AthleteOmbuds>:

Contact Kacie Wallace at: Telephone: 719-866-2299, or Email: kacie@usathlete.org

11. ANTI-RETALIATION POLICY

USA Team Handball strictly prohibits retaliation of any kind. No employee, contractor, volunteer, board member, coach, or agent of USA Team Handball or the USOPC may take or threaten adverse action against any individual for reporting in good faith, participating in, or assisting with any complaint, inquiry, investigation, or grievance related to these Selection Procedures or applicable policies.



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Any individual who believes they may report the matter to the USA Athlete Ombuds Office, or other Retaliation constitutes a serious policy violation and may result in disciplinary action.

have been subjected to retaliation Team Handball CEO, the USOPC appropriate compliance authorities.

12. DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

These Selection Procedures were developed and reviewed by USA Team Handball staff and stakeholders, including technical leadership and athlete representation, to ensure compliance with USOPC requirements, International Federation standards, and principles of fairness and transparency.

13. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF 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.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USATH CEO	Michael King	Signed by: <i>Michael King</i> D2976610222B4A0...	2/16/2026
Team USA AC Representative	Drew Donlin	DocuSigned by: <i>Andrew Donlin</i> D1054E3C733640F...	2/16/2026
US Women's Senior Beach Head Coach	Lyndon Suvanto	Signed by: <i>Lh Suvanto</i> 4421A649D5F0481...	2/16/2026