

APPENDIX E

NATIONAL TEAM, OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND ALL-STAR CAMP SELECTION PROCEDURES

Amendments to this Appendix E are the responsibility of the Chief of Sport (or Designee). The Chief of Sport (or Designee), in consultation with the National Team Program Committee, can modify this Appendix by recommending changes to the USAAS Board of Directors for approval.

The Chief of Sport (or Designee), with notification to the USA Artistic Swimming (“USAAS”) Vice President Olympic International and the International Relations Committee Chair, selects appropriate international events for each of the National Teams. Participation in the designated competitions shall be limited to the National Team(s), unless otherwise approved by the International Relations Review Subcommittee. Clubs must petition the International Relations Review Subcommittee for a Club Option. Refer to USAAS Club Option and Private Invitation Procedures (Appendix F). Private invitations are the only exception to the Club Option procedure and require notification to the International Relations Committee Chair.

PREREQUISITES FOR NATIONAL TEAMS, OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND ALL-STAR CAMP

Below are the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to a National Team, Olympic Development Program or All-Star Camp.

A. Membership/Nationality/Passport Requirements:

1. An Athlete must be a current registered Youth Competitive Athlete member or Adult Competitive Athlete member of USAAS in order to participate in any National Team Trials.
2. An Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of the final selection of the Squad/Team.
 - **Exception:** An Athlete who is not a citizen of the United States may participate in any 12 & Under, Youth or Junior National Team Trials event, but will not be eligible for the final selection of the Squad/Team for which the Trials are being conducted, unless the Athlete is able to provide a copy of a valid United States passport to the Chief of Sport prior to the Final Phase of the Trials event.
 - An Athlete who is not a citizen of the United States who qualifies through the Trials process for the All-Star Camp may participate in the All-Star Camp, at the discretion of the USAAS Chief of Sport.
2. An Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for 6 months after the competition/event.

NOTE: Refer to the USAAS website to find the most recent information concerning ongoing Trials procedures and/or the National Teams, Olympic Development Program and All-Star Elite Camp.

B. Other Requirements:

1. Athletes must be a member in good standing with USAAS.
2. Athletes must meet the requirements of the USAAS National Team/Squad Agreement.

PREREQUISITES FOR EVALUATORS FOR ALL TRIALS

The Chief of Sport (or Designee) will select the appropriate number of individuals from the list below to serve on a panel during a Trials event.

- A. Current AQUA and PAQ judges
- B. Current AQUA Evaluators
- C. National Team Coaching Staff
- D. Chief of Sport or Designee
- E. AQUA and PAQ Difficulty Technical Controllers
- F. USAAS Level 2 Difficulty Technical Controllers
- G. National Skill Assessors
- H. Former AQUA and PAQ judges and AQUA Evaluators
- I. National Judges

ARTICLE 1

ALL-STAR CAMP PROCEDURES FOR 12 & UNDER ATHLETES

1.01 ELIGIBILITY FOR THE 2026 12 & UNDER ALL-STAR CAMP ATHLETES

To be eligible for the 2026 All-Star Camp, a registered USAAS athlete must:

- A. Have been born in the years 2014 or later.
- B. Have passed Grade Levels 1 and 2.
- C. Have placed in the top 8 in the Figure competition at the 2026 12 & under U.S. Invitational to be held April 23-36, 2026 in Buffalo, NY, at a time to be announced. If any of the top 8 athletes decline their selection, the next eligible athlete(s), in rank order, will be invited to the All-Star Camp for a maximum of 8 athletes qualified through the 2026 12 & under U.S. Invitational.

1.02 NAMING THE 12 & UNDER ATHLETES FOR THE ALL-STAR CAMP

- A. **Number of Athletes:** The 2026 National Elite Camp will be comprised of up to:
 - 8 12 & under athletes based on the criteria and results from Article 1, Section 1.01 A-C.
- 1. The exact number of athletes will be determined by the Chief of Sport. The Chief of Sport will make the final decision based on the criteria and results.
- B. **All-Star Camp Requirements:** All selected athletes must attend the All-Star Camp, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Chief of Sport.
 - 1. If a selected athlete decides to decline their All-Star Camp selection, this athlete must notify the Chief of Sport, in writing no later than May, 2026, exact date to be determined.
 - 2. If a selected athlete is not present at the start of the All-Star Camp (unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the Chief of Sport), this athlete may no longer be considered a member of the All-Star Camp, and a replacement athlete will be selected instead.
 - 3. If an insufficient number of athletes accept their selection to the All-Star Camp, the Chief of Sport, has the right to revise the overall plan for the 2026 All-Star Camp.

ARTICLE 2

2026 YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM AND ADDITIONAL ALL-STAR CAMP ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2.01 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Phase 1 of the 2026 Youth National Team and All-Star Camp Trials, a registered USAAS athlete must:

- A. Be eligible to compete in the selected competition/camp(s).
- B. Have been born in the years 2011 to 2013 (females) and 2010 to 2013 (males).
- C. Have passed Grade Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4.

2.02 2026 YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM AND ALL-STAR CAMP SELECTION PROCEDURES

Number of Phases, Components and Officials:

- A. Phases 1 and 2 shall be held during the U.S. Youth Championship, April 23-26, 2026, in Buffalo, NY, at a time to be announced.
- B. Figures in Phases 1 will be judged by a panel of AQUA Judges, PAQ Judges, AQUA Evaluators, former AQUA/ PAQ Judges and AQUA Evaluators and/or National Judges at the U.S. Youth Championship.
- C. Stationary Water Skill Tests in Phases 2A and 2B and the Individual Routine Swim in Phase 2C will be judged/evaluated by a panel of 3-5 evaluators as defined in "Prerequisites for Evaluators".
- D. For Phases 2A and 2B, a full description of the Tests and scoring criteria can be found in the National Skills Testing Protocols which is posted on the USAAS website, at least 45 days prior to the commencement of the tryout.
- E. Phases 2A, 2B and 2C may be conducted simultaneously based on a random draw split into 2-3 groups.
- E. For Phase 2, the Vice President Olympic International (or Designee) and the Team USA Athlete's Commission ("Team USA AC") Representative (or Designee) will be present at the Trials to ensure compliance, though will not serve as official evaluators.

The 2026 Youth National Team and All-Star Camp shall be selected as follows:

A. Phase 1 – Figure Competition:

- 1. Eligible athletes will compete in the Figure competition during the U.S. Youth Championship, to be held April 23-26, 2026, in Buffalo, NY.
- 2. Scores from Phase 1 will be calculated according to AQUA rules.
- 3. The top 50 registered Trials athletes* in rank order from the U.S. Youth Championship Figure competition shall advance from Phase 1 to Phase 2.

* NOTE: To ensure that Phase 2A has a minimum of 1 male and not more than 2 males, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) may go below the 50th ranked registered Trials athlete(s) in order to add up to 2 males to the list, if necessary, to finalize the Phase 2 participants.

B. Phase 2A – Stationary Water Skill "A" Test:

- 1. Eligible athletes will compete in a Stationary Water Skill "A" Test to be selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee).
- 2. All athletes from Phase 2A shall advance to Phase 2B.

C. Phase 2B – Stationary Water Skill "B" Test:

- 1. Eligible athletes will compete in a Stationary Water Skill "B" Test to be selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee).

2. All athletes from Phase 2B shall advance to Phase 2C.

D. Phase 2C – Artistic Swimming Routine - Individual Routine Swim:

1. Eligible athletes will compete in a Routine competition, which will consist of 1 individual routine swim. The draw for the individual routine swim will be a random draw. The routine will be selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee), in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff.

E. Phase 2 – Final Score:

1. The Final score for Phase 2 will be calculated using the following percentages:
- Phase 2A – Stationary Water Skill “A” Test 10%
 - Phase 2B – Stationary Water Skill “B” Test 10%
 - Phase 2C – Individual Routine Swim 45%

E. Phases 1 and 2 - Final Score:

1. The Final score for Phases 1 and 2 will be calculated using the following percentages:
- Phase 1 35%
 - Phase 2 65%
- (10% Stationary Water Skill “A” Test from Phase 2A, 10% Stationary Water Skill “B” Test from Phase 2B, 45% Individual Routine Swim from Phase 2C)

2. The Final Score from Phases 1 and 2 will be used to select up to 16 athletes* for the Youth National Team and up to 4 athletes for the All-Star Camp.

* **NOTE:** To ensure that the Youth National Team has a minimum of 1 male and not more than 2 males, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) may go below the last athlete(s) being considered for the Youth National Team in order to replace the last ranked athlete(s) with up to 2 males, if necessary, to finalize the 2026 Youth National Team.

TIED ATHLETES: If one or more athlete(s) attain a score of 0.1 or less below the score of the last athlete being considered for the Youth National Team, it will be considered a tie. A tiebreaker shall be used to rank the tied athletes.

TIEBREAKER: To separate the scores in the preceding paragraph, the results of the Individual Routine Swim from Phase 2C will be used to break the tie.

2.03 NAMING THE 2026 YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM AND ADDITIONAL ATHLETES FOR THE ALL-STAR CAMP

All members of the Youth National Team will be eligible to be a part of the Olympic Development Program – Youth Camp.

- A. Number of Athletes:** The 2026 Youth National Team and All-Star Camp will be comprised of up to:

- 16 athletes* (not including petitioners) for the Youth National Team.
- 4 athletes (not including petitioners) for the All-Star Camp.

* **NOTE:** To ensure that the Youth National Team has a minimum of 1 male and not more than 2 males, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) may go below the last athlete(s) being considered for the Youth National Team in order to replace the last ranked athlete(s) with up to 2 males, if necessary, to finalize the 2026 Youth National Team.

1. The exact number of female and male athletes for the Youth National Team will be determined by the Chief of Sport (or Designee). The Chief of Sport (or Designee) will make the final decision based on the results of the Final Score from Phases 1 and 2 of the 2026 Youth National Team Trials and in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff and select AQUA Judges.

B. Training and Competition Requirements:

1. All selected athletes must commit to the Youth National Team by May 10, 2026 to be eligible to participate at the Olympic Development Program – Youth Camp (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Chief of Sport (or Designee)).
2. If a selected athlete decides to decline their Youth National Team or All-Star Camp selection, this athlete must notify the Chief of Sport (or Designee), in writing no later than May 10, 2026.
3. If a selected athlete is not present at the start of the Youth National Team training or the All-Star Camp (unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the Chief of Sport or Designee), this athlete may no longer be considered a member of the 2026 Youth National Team or All-Star Camp, and a replacement athlete will be selected instead.
4. If an insufficient number of athletes accept their selection to the 2026 Youth National Team or All-Star Camp, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) has the right to revise the overall plan for the 2026 Youth National Team and/or the All-Star Camp.

C. **Routine Assignments:** Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Team and Free Combination assignments for each competition, if applicable, will be determined at a later date by the National Team Coaching Staff for final approval by the Chief of Sport (or Designee). All athletes named to the 2026 Youth National Team will be considered for each routine.

D. **Replacements:** Replacement athletes for the Youth National Team and All-Star Camp shall be selected in rank order from Phase 2, and then Phase 1 of the 2026 Youth National Team and All-Star Camp Trials. Replacement athletes must be able to demonstrate competitive readiness as determined by the Chief of Sport (or Designee), and the National Team Coaching Staff.

2.04 PETITIONS

A. Any Youth athlete who has successfully petitioned the National Team Review Subcommittee, pursuant to the Exception noted below, may also be considered for placement on the 2026 Youth National Team, the All-Star or advancement to the next Phase of Trials. Consideration is regardless of their prior participation or ranking in any of the Selection Process that has taken place.

B. Petitions must be submitted prior to the end of the Final Phase of the Trials event and any successful petitioner must be present at the start of Youth National Team training or the All-Star Camp.

C. The National Team Review Subcommittee approves or denies the petition. However, the Chief of Sport (or Designee), in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff, may replace the last ranked athlete(s), with one or more petitioners added from Section 2.04 A. above to finalize the 2026 Youth National Team, the All-Star Camp or advancement to the next Phase of Trials.

EXCEPTION: In the event of an athlete injury or illness as certified by a Physician approved by USAAS, or an extreme personal or family emergency or any other extenuating circumstances, prior to or during the Youth National Team and All-Star Camp Trials, which precludes the athlete from participating in the Trials, the athlete may petition the National Team Review Subcommittee. If the petition is approved, the successful petitioner shall be reinserted into the Selection Process at the appropriate Phase as an additional athlete.

ARTICLE 3

2026 JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM AND ADDITIONAL ALL-STAR CAMP **ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following athletes are the current members of the Senior National Team who are in full-time training and are age-eligible for the Junior National Team.

Ghizal Akbar
Isabella Bae
AnaMaria Camero
Kanako Field
Jaclyn Zhuge

All age-eligible Senior National Team athletes must commit to participating on the Junior National Team by March 22nd, 2026. The age-eligible Senior National Team athletes are automatically named to the Junior National Team and will not participate in the Team Trials.

3.01 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Phase 1 of the 2026 Junior National Team and All-Star Camp, a registered USAAS athlete must:

- A. Be eligible to compete in the selected competition/camp(s).
- B. Have been born in the years 2007 to 2011 (females) and 2006 to 2011 (males).
- C. Have passed Grade Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

3.02 2025 JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM AND ALL-STAR CAMP SELECTION PROCEDURES

Number of Phases, Components and Officials:

- A. Phases 1 and 2 shall be held on January 17-18, 2026 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at a time to be announced.
- B. Phase 3 and 4 shall be held during the U.S Junior Championship, April 9-13, 2026, in Buffalo, NY, at a time to be announced.
- C. All routine and skill testing will be judged/evaluated by a panel of 3-5 evaluators as defined in "Prerequisites for Evaluators".
- D. For Phases 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A and 2C, a full description of the Tests and scoring criteria can be found in the National Skills Testing Protocols which is posted on the USAAS website at least 45 days prior to the commencement of the tryout.
- E. During Phase 3, the athletes will be evaluated based on observations by the National Team Coaching Staff during the Trials.
- F. For Phase 3 and 4, the Vice President Olympic International (or Designee) and the Team USA AC Representative (or Designee) will be present at the Trials to ensure compliance, though will not serve as official evaluators.

The 2026 Junior National Team and All-Star Camp shall be selected as follows:

- A. **Phase 1A – Swimming & Conditioning Tests:**
 - 1. Eligible athletes will compete in Swimming and Conditioning Tests, exact test(s) to be determined by the Chief of Sport (or Designee).
 - 2. All athletes from Phase 1A shall advance to Phase 1B.
- B. **Phase 1B – Technical Skills Tests:**
 - 1. Eligible athletes will compete in Technical Skills Tests, which will consist of a select number, to be determined by the Chief of Sport (or Designee) from the

Technical Required Elements from the World Aquatics Technical Elements, Appendix 2.

2. All athletes from Phase 1B shall advance to Phase 1C.

C. **Phase 1C – Strength & Flexibility Tests:**

1. Eligible athletes will compete in Strength and Flexibility Tests, which will consist of up to 2 strength tests and up to 2 flexibility tests, selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee).

D. **Phase 1 – Final Score:**

1. The Final score for Phase 1 will be calculated using the following percentages:
 - Phase 1A – Swimming & Conditioning Tests 30%
 - Phase 1B – Technical Skills Tests (elements) 50%
 - Phase 1C – Strength & Flexibility Tests (land) 20%
2. Number of athletes to advance to Phase 2A:
 - Up to a maximum of 40 registered Trials athletes*, in rank order, shall advance to Phase 2A.

* **NOTE:** To ensure that Phase 2A has a minimum of 1 male and not more than 2 males, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) may go below the 40th ranked registered Trials athlete(s) in order to add up to 2 males to the list, if necessary, to finalize the Phase 2 participants.

TIED ATHLETES: If one or more athlete(s) attain a score of 0.1 or less below the score of the last qualified athlete for Phase 2A, it will be considered a tie. All tied athletes will advance to Phase 2A.

E. **Phase 2A – Stationary Technical Skill Tests:**

1. Eligible athletes will compete in Stationary Technical Skill Tests, which will consist of 2 water tests, selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee).
2. All athletes from Phase 2A shall advance to Phases 2B.

F. **Phase 2B – Artistic Swimming Routine - Individual Routine Swim:**

1. Eligible athletes will compete in a Routine competition, which will consist of 1 individual technical routine swim. The draw for the individual technical routine swim will be a random draw. The routine will be selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee), in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff.
2. All athletes from Phase 2B shall advance to Phases 2C.

G. **Phase 2C – Acrobatic Skills Tests:**

1. Eligible athletes will compete in an Acrobatic Skills Test, which will consist of 1 water test, selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee).

H. **Phase 2 – Final Score:**

1. The Final score for Phase 2 will be calculated using the following percentages:
 - Phase 2A – Stationary Technical Skill Tests 30%
 - Phase 2B – Individual Routine Swim (technical) 50%
 - Phase 2C – Acrobatic Skills Test 20%

I. **Phases 1 and 2 – Final Score:**

1. The Final score for Phases 1 and 2 will be calculated using the following percentages:
 - Phase 1 100%
(30% Swimming & Conditioning Tests from Phase 1A, 50% Technical Skills Tests from Phase 1B and 20% Strength & Flexibility Tests from Phase 1C)

- Phase 2 100%
(30% Stationary Technical Skill Tests from Phase 2A, 50% Individual Routine Swim from Phase 2B, 20% Acrobatic Skills Test from Phase 2C)
2. Number of athletes to advance to Phase 3A:
- Up to a maximum of 30 registered Trials athletes*, in rank order, shall advance to Phase 3A.
- * **NOTE:** To ensure that Phase 3A has a minimum of 1 male and not more than 2 males, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) may go below the 30th ranked registered Trials athlete(s) in order to add up to 2 males to the list, if necessary, to finalize the Phase 3 participants.
- TIED ATHLETES:** If one or more athlete(s) attain a score of 0.1 or less below the score of the last qualified athlete for Phase 3A, it will be considered a tie. All tied athletes will advance to Phase 3A.
- J. **Phase 3A – Artistic Swimming Routine - Individual Routine Swim:**
1. Eligible athletes will compete in a Routine competition, which will consist of 1 individual free routine swim. The draw for the individual free routine swim will be a random draw. The routine will be selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee), in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff.
 2. All athletes from Phase 3A shall advance to Phase 3B.
- K. **Phase 3B – Observation:**
1. Eligible athletes will be evaluated throughout the Trials process by the National Team Coaching Staff. Evaluation will consist of preparedness, attitude, coachability, teamwork and competitiveness.
- L. **Phase 3 – Final Score:**
1. The Final score for Phase 3 will be calculated using the following percentages:

• <u>Phases 1 & 2</u>	<u>20%</u>
• Phase 3A – Individual Routine Swim (free)	<u>50%</u>
• Phase 3B – Observation	<u>30%</u>
 2. Number of athletes to advance to Phase 4:
 - Up to a maximum of 20 registered Trials athletes*, in rank order, shall advance to Phase 4A.

* **NOTE:** To ensure that Phase 4A has a minimum of 1 male and not more than 2 males, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) may go below the 20th ranked registered Trials athlete(s) in order to add up to 2 males to the list, if necessary, to finalize the Phase 3 participants.

TIED ATHLETES: If one or more athlete(s) attain a score of 0.1 or less below the score of the last qualified athlete for Phase 4A, it will be considered a tie. All tied athletes will advance to Phase 4A.
- M. **Phase 4 – Artistic Swimming Routine - Group Swim:**
1. Eligible athletes will compete in a Routine competition, which will consist of 1 group free routine swim. The draw and the number of athletes in each group for the group routine swim will be decided by the Chief of Sport (or Designee). The routine will be selected by the Chief of Sport (or Designee), in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff.
- N. **Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 – Final Score:**
1. The Final score for Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be calculated using the following percentages:

• Phases 1 and 2	<u>15%</u>
• Phase <u>3A</u> – Individual Routine Swim (free)	<u>30%</u>
• <u>Phase 3B</u> – Observation	<u>20%</u>

- Phase 4 – Group Swim

35%

2. The Final Score from Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be used to select up to 14 athletes* (including any age-eligible Senior National Team athletes listed above) for the Junior National Team and up to 8 athletes for the All-Star Camp.

* **NOTE:** To ensure that the Junior National Team has a minimum of 1 male and not more than 2 males, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) may go below the last athlete(s) being considered for the Junior National Team, in order to replace the last ranked athlete(s) with up to 2 males, if necessary, to finalize the 2026 Junior National Team.

TIED ATHLETES: If one or more athlete(s) attain a score of 0.1 or less below the score of the last athlete being considered for the Junior National Team, it will be considered a tie. A tiebreaker shall be used to rank the tied athletes.

TIEBREAKER: To separate the scores in the preceding paragraph, the overall Routine Execution score from the Individual routine swim from Phase 3A will be used. If there is another tie, the average of the scores for the Technical Required Elements from the Individual routine swim from Phase 2B will be used to break the tie.

3.03 NAMING THE 2026 JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM AND ADDITIONAL ATHLETES FOR THE ALL-STAR CAMP

All members of the Junior National Team will be eligible to compete in the 2026 World Aquatics Junior World Championships.

Note: The age-eligible Senior National Team athletes who have committed by March 22, 2026, to participating on the Junior National Team are automatically named to the Junior National Team.

- A. Number of Athletes:** The 2026 Junior National Team and All-Star Camp will be comprised of up to:
 - 14 athletes* (not including petitioners) for the Junior National Team.
 - 8 athletes (not including petitioners) for the All-Star Camp.

* **NOTE:** To ensure that the Junior National Team has a minimum of 1 male and not more than 2 males, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) may go below the last athlete(s) being considered for the Junior National Team in order to replace the last ranked athlete(s) with up to 2 males, if necessary, to finalize the 2026 Junior National Team.

1. The exact number of female and male athletes for the Junior National Team will be determined by the Chief of Sport (or Designee). The Chief of Sport (or Designee) will make the final decision based on the results of the Final Score from Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the 2026 Junior National Team Trials and in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff and select AQUA Judges.

B. Training and Competition Requirements:

1. All selected athletes from 3.03 A above (excluding the age-eligible Senior National Team athletes who previously committed to participating on the Junior National Team by March 22, 2026) must commit to the Junior National Team by May 1, 2026 to be eligible to participate at the 2026 World Aquatics Junior World Championships (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Chief of Sport (or Designee)).
2. If a selected athlete decides to decline their Junior National Team or All-Star Camp selection, this athlete must notify the Chief of Sport (or Designee) in writing no later than May 1, 2026.
3. If a selected athlete is not present at the start of the Junior National Team training or the All-Star Camp (unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the Chief of Sport or Designee), this athlete may no longer be considered a member of the 2026 Junior National Team or All-Star Camp, and a replacement athlete will be selected instead.

4. If an insufficient number of athletes accept their selection to the 2026 Junior National Team or All-Star Camp, the Chief of Sport (or Designee), has the right to revise the overall plan for the 2026 Junior National Team and/or the All-Star Camp.
- C. **Routine Assignments:** Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Team and Acrobatic Routine assignments for each competition, if applicable, will be determined at a later date by the National Team Coaching Staff for final approval by the Chief of Sport (or Designee). All athletes named to the 2026 Junior National Team will be considered for each routine.
- D. **Replacements:** Replacement athletes for the Junior National Team and All-Star Camp shall be selected in rank order from Phase 4, 3, 2, and then Phase 1 of the 2026 Junior National Team and All-Star Camp Trials. Replacement athletes must be able to demonstrate competitive readiness as determined by the Chief of Sport (or Designee), and the National Team Coaching Staff.

3.04 PETITIONS

- A. Any Junior athlete who has successfully petitioned the National Team Review Subcommittee, pursuant to the Exception noted below, may also be considered for placement on the 2026 Junior National Team, the All-Star Camp or advancement to the next Phase of Trials. Consideration is regardless of their prior participation or ranking in any of the Selection Process that has taken place.
- B. Petitions must be submitted prior to the end of the Final Phase of the Trials event and any successful petitioner must be present at the start of Junior National Team training or the All-Star Camp.
- C. The National Team Review Subcommittee approves or denies the petition. However, the Chief of Sport (or Designee), in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff, may replace the last ranked athlete(s), with one or more petitioners added from Section 3.04 A. above to finalize the 2026 Junior National Team, the All-Star Camp or advancement to the next Phase of Trials.

EXCEPTION: In the event of an athlete injury or illness as certified by a Physician approved by USAAS, or an extreme personal or family emergency or any other extenuating circumstances prior to or during the Junior National Team and All-Star Camp Trials, which precludes the athlete from participating in the Trials, the athlete may petition the National Team Review Subcommittee. If the petition is approved, the successful petitioner shall be reinserted into the Selection Process at the appropriate Phase as an additional athlete.

ARTICLE 4

2026 SENIOR NATIONAL TRAINING SQUAD ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following athletes are the current members of the 2026 Senior National Training Squad:

LA Based Training Athletes

Ghizal Akbar

Anita Alvarez

Isabela Bac

AnaMaria Camero

Jaime Czarkowski

Nicole Dzurko

Kanako Field

Anna Martinez

Emileen Moore

Dani Ramirez

Elle Santana

Natalia Vega

Jaclyn Zhuge

Remote Training Athletes

Ayla Barry

Megumi Field

Keana Hunter

Audrey Kwon

Calista Liu

Danielle Ovadia

Ruby Remati

Morgan Woelfel

Karen Xue

Full details of the 2026 Senior National Team Selection process can be found here:
<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-artistic-swimming/team-usa/national-team-trials>

ARTICLE 5

2026 SENIOR NATIONAL MIXED DUET SQUAD SELECTION PROCEDURES

(All New)

5.01 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the 2026 Senior National Mixed Duet Squad Trials, a registered USAAS athlete must:

- A. Be eligible to compete in the selected competition/camp(s).
- B. Be eligible to participate in the 2026 U.S. National Championship in the Mixed Duet events – Technical and Free routine events.
- C. Have passed Grade Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

5.02 2026 SENIOR NATIONAL MIXED DUET SQUAD SELECTION PROCEDURES

The highest-ranking Mixed Duet from the 2026 U.S. National Championship will be offered the opportunity to compete as part of the Senior National Team at the 2026 World Aquatics World Cup Super Final in Toronto, Canada.

Number of Phases, Components and Officials:

- A. Phase 1 shall be held during the U.S. National Championship, April 9-13, 2026, in Buffalo, NY, at a time to be announced.
- B. Routines in Phase 1 will be judged by a panel of AQUA Judges, PAQ Judges, AQUA Evaluators, former AQUA/ PAQ Judges and AQUA Evaluators and/or National Judges at the U.S. National Championship.

The 2026 Senior National Mixed Duet Squad shall be selected as follows:

- A. Eligible athletes will compete in the Mixed Duet Technical and Free routine events at the 2026 U.S. National Championship.
- B. The final combined results from the U.S. National Championship Mixed Duet Technical and Free routine events will determine placement. In the case of different athletes competing in the Technical and Free Mixed Duet events, the entry list must contain the same 3 athletes' squad for both routine events.
- C. If the top ranked Mixed Duet declines their selection, then the opportunity will move to the 2nd place Mixed Duet. If the 2nd place Mixed Duet declines their selection, no further selection will be made.

5.03 NAMING THE 2026 WORLD AQUATICS WORLD CUP SUPER FINAL SENIOR NATIONAL MIXED DUET SQUAD

- A. **Number of Athletes:** The 2026 World Aquatics World Cup Super Final Senior National Mixed Duet Squad will be comprised of 1 male and 1 female athlete (not including petitioners) plus 1 reserve athlete.
- B. **Designation as Senior National Team Representatives/Funding:**
 - 1. The selected Mixed Duet Squad will represent the Senior National Team at the 2026 World Aquatics World Cup Super Final. Club representation through the Club Option Program will not be required or allowed.
 - 2. Senior National Team resources will be provided for the Mixed Duet Squad (2 athletes only) at the World Aquatics World Cup Super Final to include but not limited to entry fees, room and board, Judge, Technical Controller and National Team Coaches expertise. Additional resources may be considered after selection. One Reserve athlete and club coaches may attend the World Aquatics World Cup Super Final at their own expense, depending on the rules and regulations of the

World Aquatics World Cup Super Final and at the discretion of the Chief of Sport (or Designee).

C. Training and Competition Requirements:

1. All selected Mixed Duet Squad athletes must commit to the Senior National Team by May 8, 2026 to be eligible to participate at the 2026 World Aquatics World Cup Super Final (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Chief of Sport or Designee).
2. If a selected Mixed Duet Squad athlete decides to decline their Senior National Team Mixed Duet Squad selection, this athlete must notify the Chief of Sport (or Designee) in writing no later than May 8, 2026.
3. If an insufficient number of athletes accept their selection to the 2026 Senior National Mixed Duet Squad or if World Aquatics revises the Mixed Duet eligibility or competition inclusions and regulations, the Chief of Sport (or Designee) has the right to revise the overall plan for the 2026 Senior National Mixed Duet Squad.
4. The selected Mixed Duet Squad athletes will train with their club utilizing their club resources and coaches.

D. Replacements: Replacement athletes for the Senior National Mixed Duet Squad shall be selected in rank order from Phase 1 of the 2026 Senior National Mixed Duet Trials. Replacement athletes must be able to demonstrate competitive readiness as determined by the Chief of Sport (or Designee), and the National Team Coaching Staff.

E. Other Considerations:

1. The Senior National Mixed Duet Squad may also consider participating at the World Aquatics World Cup # 4 in Spain at their own expense and at the discretion of the Chief of Sport. The Senior National Mixed Duet Squad will represent the Senior National Team.
2. The Male member of the Senior National Mixed Duet Squad will have the option to participate in the Male Solo events at the World Aquatics World Cup Super Final and/ or World Aquatics World Cup # 4 at his own expense and at the discretion of the Chief of Sport. The Male soloist will represent the Senior National Team.

5.04 PETITIONS

- A. Any Senior athlete who has successfully petitioned the National Team Review Subcommittee, pursuant to the Exception noted below, may also be considered for placement on the 2026 Senior National Mixed Duet Squad. Consideration is regardless of their prior participation or ranking in any of the Selection Process that has taken place.
- B. Petitions must be submitted prior to the end of the Final Phase of the Trials event.
- C. The National Team Review Subcommittee approves or denies the petition. However, the Chief of Sport (or Designee), in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff, may replace the last ranked athlete(s), with one or more petitioners added from Section 5.05 A. above to finalize the 2026 Senior National Mixed Duet Squad.

EXCEPTION: In the event of an athlete injury or illness as certified by a Physician approved by USAAS, or an extreme personal or family emergency or any other extenuating circumstances prior to or during the Senior National Mixed Duet Squad Trials, which precludes the athlete from participating in the Trials, the athlete may petition the National Team Review Subcommittee. If the petition is approved, the successful petitioner shall be reinserted into the Selection Process at the appropriate Phase as an additional athlete.

ARTICLE 6

US ANTI-DOPING AGENCY, WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA AND ATHLETE RETIREMENT NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

6.01 US Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA”), World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”) Athlete Selection Criteria:

This procedure outlines the athlete selection criteria to meet the requirements of **the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA”), the World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”)** and World Aquatics (“AQUA”, formerly known as the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur “FINA”) for Out-Of-Competition (“OOC”) testing. USA Artistic Swimming (“USAAS”) will notify USADA, WADA and AQUA of the athletes who meet the criteria. It is the responsibility of the athlete to maintain current documentation with USADA, WADA and AQUA once the athlete is participating in the program. Severe sanctions can be imposed on the athlete, as well as the Federation, if this requirement is not met. It is the responsibility of the athlete to become acquainted with the responsibilities in regards to compliance with these important requirements.

- A. **United States Anti-Doping Obligations:** It is the duty of members of USAAS to comply with all anti-doping rules of USADA, WADA and AQUA, and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”), including but not limited to the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing (“USADA Protocol”) and the USOPC National Anti-Doping Policy, and all other policies and rules adopted by USADA, WADA and AQUA. Members agree to submit to drug testing by USADA and/or AQUA or their designees at any time and understand that the use of methods or substances prohibited by the applicable anti-doping rules make them subject to penalties including, but not limited to, disqualification and suspension. If it is determined that a member may have committed a doping violation, the member agrees to submit to the results management authority and processes of USADA, including arbitration under the USADA Protocol, or to the results management authority of USAAS and/or AQUA, if applicable or referred by USADA.

6.02 Athlete Retirement Notification to USADA, WADA and AQUA:

All athletes on the current OOC list must submit an official Retirement Letter to each of the above agencies once a decision to retire from the sport has been reached. This can only be done by the actual individual retiring from competition. Athletes will remain on the list, and therefore subject to OOC testing and to technical and financial sanctions, if a Retirement Letter is not received by the above organizations.