



Title: USA Masters Selection Policy

Section: High Performance

Code: #1

Status: Final

Originally Approved: July 30, 2025

Last revised: July 30, 2025

Purpose: The following policy addresses the selection process for USA Field Hockey-sanctioned squads and teams named to compete in World Masters Hockey (WMH) international events such as the WMH World Cup, WMH Indoor World Cup, or Pan American Continental Cup.

This policy is designed to:

- Provide a consistent process for squad and team selection for all coaches
- Provide a consistent process for squad and team selection for athletes
- Maximize viable, competitive playing opportunities for teams representing the U.S. (including Spirit of Masters teams).

Definitions:

- **Squad:** A squad reflects a cohort of selected athletes in an age group deemed competitively eligible and interested to compete for final team selection.
- **Team:** A team reflects the final roster of athletes and alternates named to compete in a specific international tournament.

Policy:

1. The High Performance Committee will define the selection criteria for squads and teams with consideration for factors such as tactical understanding, technical skills, coachability, and age-appropriate fitness. (See Exhibit A for current criteria.)
2. Coaches will utilize the selection criteria to evaluate all athletes who have expressed interest in being considered and participate in domestic training and events for selection to their squad or team.
3. Athletes who have represented their country of origin in the past can be automatically included in their chronological age group squad (i.e. past National, Olympic, or Masters World Cup team from any country).
4. Athletes will be informed of the overall selection criteria at the onset of the selection cycle. Athletes will be encouraged to take part in as many training and domestic competitions as possible to maximize their exposure and consideration for selection.
 - a. Video submissions are permitted in the event that an athlete is unable to participate due to:
 - i. Medical condition or injury
 - ii. Pregnancy
 - iii. Being out of the country/region where trainings are being held
 - b. Video submissions will be accepted by the deadline announced by the High Performance Committee prior to announcing squads. A submission fee may be required. The video must meet the following criteria:
 - i. 6-10 minutes total length
 - ii. 3-5 minutes of recent game footage from within the past two years
 - iii. 3-5 minutes of skills demonstration

- c. Team Coaches will review videos using the selection criteria prior to announcing squads.
 - d. Athletes who are named to a squad based upon a video submission must attend an in-person training or domestic competition prior to being considered for selection to the final team.
5. All members of a squad must participate in a domestic training or tournament to be eligible for final selection on a team.
 6. The coaches will recommend which athletes should be named to any squads/teams based upon eligible athletes and the Selection Policy and criteria.
 7. The High Performance (Selection) Committee will review these recommendations in collaboration with the coaches prior to recommending the final rosters to USA Field Hockey.
 8. USA Field Hockey will provide the final approval of proposed teams prior to making the official announcement.
 9. Any deviations from the selection policy will need to be approved by the High Performance (Selection) Committee.

Procedure:

- 1) The High Performance Committee will determine the selection criteria prior to each selection cycle.
- 2) The criteria will be announced to athletes at the beginning of each selection cycle.
- 3) Coaches will be provided with the selection criteria prior to each selection cycle and asked to track observations during the selection cycle. They will compile observations over the course of the selection period.
- 4) Coaches are encouraged to provide concurrent feedback to athletes in the spirit of continuous growth and improvement.
- 5) Notes will be stored confidentially and archived for future reference to provide continuity as athletes progress into new age groups and/or there are changes in coaching personnel.

Exhibit A - 2026 MWC / MIWC Selection criteria

Coach:						Manager:						Age Group:			
Assign a rating each weekend 1 - 5 (1 being the best)															
GOALKEEPERS															
First Name	Last Name	Age on Tour	Tactical Understanding of Angles	Tactical Play Reading	Technical - Balance	Technical - Mobility	Coachability	Overall Fitness	Fitness Test	Squad Recommendation	Player Position(s)	Player Notes			
			▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	GK				
			▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	GK				
FIELD PLAYERS															
First Name	Last Name	Age on Tour	Tactical Awareness - Attack	Tactical Awareness - Defense	Technical Skills - Attack	Technical Skills - Defense	Coachability	Overall Fitness	Fitness Test	Squad Recommendation	Player Position(s)	Player Notes			
			▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼		Squad Player ▼					
			▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼		Select to Squad ▼					
			▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼		Do not Select ▼					
			▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼					