



USA Team Handball Athlete Selection Procedures

2025 U17 North American and Caribbean Beach Handball Youth Olympics and IHF Youth Beach World Championships Qualifier March 19-23, 2025, Acapulco, Mexico

SELECTION SYSTEM

1. Eligibility Requirements:

1.1 Nationality/Passport Requirements:

- Athletes must be nationals of the United States at the time of selection.
- Athletes must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the event.

1.2 Minimum International Federation Standards for Participation:

- Athletes must meet all eligibility criteria set forth by the International Handball Federation (IHF) Player Eligibility Code.
- Any competitor in the North American and Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) Championship tournament must be a national of the country of the National Federation (USA Team Handball) which is entering such competitor.
- Athletes must be at least 16 years old at the start of the competition and under the age of 18 as of December 31, 2025.

1.3 Health and Safety Requirements:

- Athletes must comply with all health and safety protocols, including vaccination or testing requirements as determined by the government, USOPC, the IHF, and the local organizing committee.
- Athletes under 18 must complete the SafeSport course for minors.

2.1 Tryout Events and Selection Process:

- Selection will be based on evaluations by the National Teams coaching staff and High-Performance staff. Evaluations will be conducted at the following events:
 - Official USATH training camps and tournaments in 2024-2025.



- Non-USATH sanctioned events within the U.S. where athletes have been observed by selection committee members or coaching staff.
- Any IHF, EHF, or NACHC sanctioned tournaments.
- Any USATH tryouts or Identification Camps occurring not less than 14 days prior to the date of Selection.

2.2 Selection Criteria:

Athletes will be evaluated based on:

- **Technical Skills:** Position-specific technical gestures such as passing, shooting, 360 and in-flight attacking, and defending.
- **Tactical Understanding:** Decision-making, positional awareness, and collaboration with teammates.
- **Physical Attributes:** Fitness, speed, endurance, and agility required for international-level competition.
- **Mental Attributes:** Teamwork, coachability, attitude, and mental toughness.

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

2.3 Discretionary Criteria:

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.

2.4 Selection Committee:

The Selection Committee will include:

- U17 National Team Head Coach
- Senior Beach National Team Staff Member
- Athlete Representative(s)
- Non-voting USATH staff member

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. Team Composition:

The final roster will include:

- 10 players
- 4 alternates

4. Financial Responsibility:

Selected players will be responsible for covering their own costs, including travel, lodging, meals, and other associated expenses for the event.

5. Notification of Selection:

Selected athletes will be notified via email no later than March 1, 2025.

6. Removal of Athletes:

Athletes may be removed from the team for the following reasons:

- Voluntary withdrawal (requires written notice).
- Injury or illness as certified by an approved physician.
- Violation of USATH's Code of Conduct or failure to comply with eligibility requirements.

Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1 of these selection procedures.

7. Replacement of Athletes:

If a selected athlete is unable to participate, the Selection Committee will fill the vacancy with an alternate based on the selection criteria outlined above.

8. Appeals Process:

Athletes may appeal selection decisions in accordance with USA Team Handball's Bylaws and Grievance Procedures. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Judicial Committee.

9. Publicity and Distribution:

These selection procedures will be publicly available on the USATH website within five days of Selection Committee Approval



10. Contact Information:

For further inquiries, please contact:

USA Team Handball

Email: info@usateamhandball.org

Website: www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball

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. Michael King, CEO
- b. Michael Hinson, Senior Men's Beach National Team Coach
- c. Andrew Donlin, Athlete Representative

12. USATH 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. 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
Michael King CEO/Executive Director	Michael King	Signed by: D2976610222B4A0...	1/23/2025
Michael Hinson, Men's Senior National Team Head Coach	Michael Hinson	DocuSigned by: 38F451C4488E462...	1/23/2025
Andrew Donlin USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council	Andrew Donlin	Signed by: 5EA5AE4393BE4F0...	1/23/2025

* 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.