

**USA Taekwondo**  
**PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games**  
October 6, 2025

TO: Members of **USA Taekwondo**  
FROM: **USA Taekwondo**  
RE: Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games

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To provide as much information in a timely manner, USA Taekwondo (USATKD) is releasing this Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Summer Games (Games). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2028 Olympic Summer Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released by USATKD once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been approved by the USOPC.

**A. Anticipated Athlete Eligibility Criteria:**

- Athletes must comply with all World Taekwondo (WT) eligibility requirements which will be posted [here](#) once available.
- Athletes must be a national of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
- Athletes must adhere to all USATKD, USADA, USOPC, WADA, WT and IOC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including participation in Out-of-Competition Testing, if applicable.
- Athletes must comply with the [USOPC Background Check Policy](#) and [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

**B. International Federation Qualification System Overview:**

The Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games Qualification Systems Manual for Taekwondo has not been published by the WT so the total number of quota places and the specific weight divisions cannot be confirmed at this time.

**C. LA2028 High Performance Guiding Principles:**

Additional information regarding USATKD's priorities and considerations for weight division evaluation for the LA2028 Olympic Games can be found in Appendix A.

**D. Anticipated Evaluation Events:**

In the event of any available quota allocation not automatically selected via Olympic Ranking or Grand Slam Series, it is intended that athletes being considered for nomination to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games may be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events. Once complete, Athlete Selection Procedures for the events below will be posted at <https://www.usatkd.org/team-selection-procedures>.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2025 Grand Prix Challenge Series (G2)	Jun. 13-15, 2025; GPC1 – Charlotte, USA; Aug. 28-31, 2025; GPC2 – Muju, Korea; Nov. 21-24, 2025; GPC3 – Bangkok, Thailand

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2025 World Taekwondo Championships (G14)	Oct. 24-30, 2025; Wuxi China
2026 Pan American Championships (G4)	TBD 2026
2026 WT Grand Prix Series (G6)/Final (G10) Events	TBD 2026 GP1 - Rome, Italy; GP2 Paris, France; GP3 Manchester, UK; GP Final Astana, Kazakhstan
2027 World Taekwondo Championships (G14)	TBD 2027
2027 Pan American Games (G4)	Jul. 16 – Aug. 1, 2027; Lima, Peru
2027 Grand Prix Challenge Series (G2)	TBD 2027
2028 Pan American Championships (G4)	TBD 2028
2025 – 2028 WT G rated Events <i>*Please note that additional WT G rated Events are anticipated to be added to the WT calendar which is linked in Appendix A below.</i>	TBD 2025 – 2028
2025 – 2028 WT Grand Slam Challenge/ Grand Slam Champions Series (G2)	Yearly; Wuxi, China

**E. Disclaimer:**

This preliminary notice is based on the WT rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2028 Olympic Summer Games. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the USATKD Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Summer Games. Once complete, the approved Athlete Selection Procedures will be posted at <https://www.usatkd.org/team-selection-procedures>.

For questions about the 2028 Olympic Summer Games selection process, please contact Stephen Lambdin, USATKD Chief Performance Officer ([slambdin@usatkd.org](mailto:slambdin@usatkd.org)).

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USATKD Chief Performance Officer	Stephen Lambdin	<i>Stephen Lambdin</i>	10/10/25
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Alex Lee	<i>Alex Lee</i>	10/10/25

## Appendix A

### Los Angeles 2028 High Performance Guiding Principles

This document outlines an initial notice of USATKD High Performance's priorities and considerations for weight division evaluation for the LA2028 Olympic Games. This framework is subject to change based on any International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Taekwondo (WT), US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) or USATKD process or rule modifications. Its primary purpose is to serve as a clear guide for our athletes, assisting them in prioritizing event and competition selection during this Olympic quad.

#### Key High Performance Selection Priorities:

High-Performance priorities for determining weight categories, athlete standing and potential for selection for the 2028 Olympic Games:

##### **1. Event Ranking (G-Ratings):**

The process will inherently prioritize performances in higher-ranked WT G-events over lower-ranked events. For example, a medal performance at a World Championship (G-14 rated event) will carry more weight than a performance at an International Open (G1 rated event).

USATKD will place a particular emphasis on medal performances and consistent results at WT World Championships (G14), World Grand Prix events (G10), and Pan American Games (G6).

##### **2. Recency of Performance:**

Recent performances during the LA quad (2025-2028) will be given greater consideration. For example, results from the 2027 World Championships will hold more significance and weight than those from the 2025 World Championships, reflecting an athlete's current form and competitive readiness closer to the 2028 Olympic Games.

##### **3. Performance in Olympic Weight Categories:**

Performances achieved within the **Olympic weight categories** will be prioritized over results in WT's non-Olympic weight divisions. This aligns directly with the goal of Olympic podium success.

When comparing the divisions that comprise each Olympic weight category, priority will be given to performances in the heavier of the two categories, with any non-native division results prioritized third. A non-native division is a division that is not included in the Olympic category of interest.

#### **4. Quality of Competition:**

Emphasis will be placed on performances where athletes:

- (1) compete and succeed against international opponents who are highly ranked (athletes ranked in the top 30 of the WT Olympic Rankings), and
- (2) perform within the WT Olympic category at WT ranked events.

Demonstrating the ability to consistently beat top-tier international athletes is crucial. Considerations will also be given to the circumstances around performances against other high-level athletes – e.g. athletes who have podium performances at major events such as the World Championships, or Olympic Games, but for various reasons are not necessarily currently highly ranked. Examples of circumstances may include, but are not limited to, beating the current World Champion in a secondary division where they have no ranking, beating a World Champion after the rankings have been reset, etc.

#### **5. Consistency in Major International Competitions:**

Athletes will also be evaluated on their ability to consistently perform at high levels across multiple major international competitions in evaluating weight divisions for selection. This includes not only winning but also consistently reaching later rounds in competition, and “quality performances” against highly ranked Olympic athletes in regard to in competition competitiveness throughout the qualification period.

- Quality performances are matches and tournaments where athletes demonstrate capability of international medal stand success and demonstrate competitive capability through performances against athletes who are highly ranked or have a history of international success at the highest levels including World Championships and the Olympic Games. Quality performances may also include matches where the athlete lost but demonstrated potential to win in future rematches.

#### **6. Strength and Depth of Competition:**

The overall strength and depth of competition within each specific Olympic weight category will be assessed, particularly regarding the potential competitive field of the division at the 2028 Olympic Games. USATKD will prioritize selecting divisions based on athletes with the highest medal podium potential in the divisions where USATKD athletes have the highest likelihood of success.

#### **7. Safe and Consistent Weight Management:**

Divisions with athletes that demonstrate the ability to safely and consistently make weight at international events without compromising health or performance within reason will also be in consideration as evaluated by USATKD under the guidance of USPC medical professionals at the National Academy in Charlotte, NC.

#### **8. WT Information:**

The WT calendar can be found here: [https://www.worldtaekwondo.org/calendar/cld\\_index.html](https://www.worldtaekwondo.org/calendar/cld_index.html)

Athletes are responsible for checking the calendar to ensure they are aware of WT events that are added in

advance of the 2028 Olympic Games.

WT information regarding athlete ranking and Event ranking can be found [here](#) under the document “WT Ranking Bylaw.” Additional information on G-rated Events can be found in Appendix B.

## **Appendix B**

### **Commonly Used Terms**

Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport

CF – Continental Federation

#### **G-Rated Events**

- G1 WT International Opens
- G2 Higher rated WT International Opens
- G3 Continental President's Cup events
- G4 Pan American Games/Pan Am Championships/Women's Championship/World University Games, etc.
- G6 Grand Prix Series
- G10 Grand Prix Finals
- G14 World Championships
- G20 Olympic Games

IOC – International Olympic Committee

IF – International Federation

LOC – Local Organizing Committee

NGB – National Governing Body

NOC – National Olympic Committee

Non-Native Division – A division belonging to a different Olympic category than the division in question.

OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games

PAG – Pan American Games

Panam Sports or PASO – Pan American Sports Organization

TEAM USA AC – Team USA Athletes' Commission (formerly USOPC Athletes Advisory Council)

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

USATKD – USA Taekwondo

USOPC – United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

WT – World Taekwondo