



Selection Procedures
2026 AQUA Junior Diving Championships Team
Rijeka, Croatia | August 21-28, 2026

INTRODUCTION.

Nature of the Selection Procedures. The procedures that follow will be used to select the TEAM that will represent the USA in the AQUA Junior Diving Championships (the "Selection Procedures" or "Procedures").

Team Size. USA Diving will field a team of up to 24 divers, depending on funding. AQUA rules established for the AQUA Junior Diving Championships permit a maximum of two (2) entries per event per gender in the AQUA A and B age groups in individual events and one (1) synchronized team per event per gender in the A/B group. The priority order for selection is based on Olympic events and future development toward Olympic success.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Girls A</u>	<u>Girls B</u>	<u>Boys A</u>	<u>Boys B</u>	<u>A/B Girls</u>	<u>A/B Boys</u>
1-meter	If spot remains	If spot remains	If spot remains	If spot remains		
3-meter	2	2	2	2		
Platform	2	2	2	2		
3-meter synchro					1 Team	1 Team
Platform synchro					1 Team	1 Team

Through the application of these Selection Procedures, USA Diving reserves the right to select fewer than the maximum number of athletes allowed by the AQUA because some members of the team may participate in multiple events, there are funding restrictions, or USA Diving may elect not to enter specific events due to extenuating circumstances.

1/ ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION TO THE 2026 WORLD AQUATICS JUNIOR DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM:

1.1 General Eligibility. Every candidate for the World Aquatics Junior Diving Championships Team must:

- a) Be a citizen of the United States.
- b) Be eligible to represent the United States per World Aquatics sport nationality regulations.
- c) Be a competition athlete member in good standing with USA Diving.
- d) Have been born between 2008-2012.

- e) Have a current passport that does not expire for a minimum of 6 months (or other reasonable time as determined by the High Performance Director) after the conclusion of the 2026 World Junior Championships.
- f) Comply with the USA Diving Athlete Agreement, Code of Conduct and SafeSport Policy.
- g) Must meet all Croatia Government entry requirements.
<https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/croatia.html>

1.2 Selection Event.

USA Diving will select its team for the 2026 AQUA Junior Diving Championships at the 2026 World Junior Championships Trials, to be held May 6-10, 2026, in Coral Springs, Florida. The selection event is governed by USA Diving rules.

- a) In the case of inclement weather, every effort will be made to adjust the competition schedule so the selection process can be completed as outlined in sections 2, 3 and 4. If that is not possible, USA Diving will follow rule 106.2 of the USA Diving rulebook. For selection purposes, two-thirds of an event at the Trials will be considered one full list of dives (one set of voluntaries and one set of optionals for both individual and synchronized events). In addition, the meet director, head referee and High Performance Director, with the approval of the majority of coaches and officials present, may modify the list of dives to be performed in order to qualify divers to the AQUA Junior Diving Championships.
- b) Following the conclusion of the Trials, divers will receive an invitation notifying them of all events for which they have been selected in sections 2 and 3. Divers will have 72 hours upon receipt of the invitation to respond.

2/ INDIVIDUAL OLYMPIC EVENT SELECTION – 3-METER & PLATFORM

- 2.1** If a junior athlete represents the United States in a 3-meter or platform event at the World Aquatics Diving World Cup Super Final (May 1-3 in Beijing, China), that athlete will have first right of refusal to compete in that event at the AQUA Junior Diving Championships. Should the athlete accept, they will count as one of the two spots and only one diver will be selected via 2.2 or 2.3 in that event.

2.2 Group A – Boys and Girls (16-18)

- a) The two divers with the highest cumulative score (preliminary voluntaries + preliminary optionals + finals optionals) in the 3-meter and platform events at the World Junior Diving Championship Trials who are eligible will be selected to the 2026 AQUA Junior Diving Championships team.
- b) If a diver is selected via 2.1, only the top diver in that event will be selected at the Trials.
- c) In the event one or both selected divers decline, the next highest-ranked eligible diver(s) shall be selected.

2.3 Group B – Boys and Girls (14-15)

- a) The two divers with the highest cumulative score (preliminary voluntaries + preliminary optionals + finals optionals) in the 3-meter and platform events at the World Junior Diving Championships Trials who are eligible will be selected to the 2026 AQUA Junior Diving Championships team.
- b) If a diver is selected via 2.1, only the top diver in that event will be selected at the Trials.
- c) In the event one or both selected divers decline, the next highest-ranked eligible diver(s) shall be selected.

2.4 Ties

- a) In the event of a tie, the diver with the highest score on optionals in the finals will be selected.
- b) If a tie still exists, the diver with the highest score on optionals in the preliminaries will be selected.
- c) If a tie still exists, the diver with the highest score on 1-meter will be selected
- d) If a tie still exists, the High Performance Director in consultation with the Committee for Competitive Excellence shall determine which diver is selected.

3/ SYNCHRONIZED DIVING EVENT SELECTION – 3-METER AND PLATFORM

3.1 A/B Girls & A/B Boys

- a) The team with the highest cumulative score (preliminaries and finals) in the 3-meter and platform synchronized diving events will be selected to the 2026 AQUA Junior Diving Championships team.
 - i) Both divers must accept the invitation. In the event one or both selected synchronized divers decline, the next highest-ranked eligible team shall be selected.

3.2 Ties

- a) In the event of a tie, the team with the highest score on optionals in the finals will be selected.
- b) If a tie still exists, the team with the highest score on optionals in the preliminaries will be selected.
- c) If a tie still exists, the team with the highest score on voluntaries in the finals will be selected.
- d) If a tie still exists, the High Performance Director in consultation with the Committee for Competitive Excellence shall determine the team.

4/ INDIVIDUAL EVENT SELECTION – 1-METER

- 4.1** Any diver named to the team via section 2 or 3 who was also the 1-meter diver with the highest cumulative score (preliminary voluntaries + preliminary optionals + final optional dives) will be selected to compete 1-meter.
- 4.2** If there are fewer than 24 divers on the team after all divers selected via sections 2 and 3 have accepted their invitations, additional 1-meter divers will be added using the following procedures:

- a) For any age group/gender that has a diver named to the team in more than one Olympic event: The 1-meter diver with the highest cumulative score (preliminary voluntaries + preliminary optionals + final optional dives) from that age group/gender will be selected.
- b) If the 1-meter diver with the highest score from that age group/gender is already on the team via 4.1, the following order will be used to select an additional 1-meter diver.
 - i. The 1-meter diver with the highest score from the same gender, different age group will be selected, and if that diver is also already on the team, then
 - ii. The 1-meter diver with the highest score from the opposite gender, same age group will be selected, and if that diver is also already on the team, then
 - iii. The 1-meter diver with the highest score from the opposite gender, different age group will be selected

For example, if a Boys Group A diver was named to the team in more than one Olympic event and was also the highest-scoring diver on 1-meter, the highest-scoring Boys Group B 1-meter diver would be invited. If that diver is also already on the team, the invitation would then go to the Girls Group A 1-meter diver with the highest score.

- c) This process will continue until the highest-scoring 1-meter diver in each age group/gender has been invited or until the team reaches its maximum size of 24 divers, whichever comes first.

4.3 Ties

In Case of a Tie in Qualifying Score:

- a) In the event of a tie, the diver with the highest score on optionals in the finals will be selected.
- b) If a tie still exists, the diver with the highest score on optionals in the preliminaries will be selected.
- c) If a tie still exists, the High Performance Director in consultation with the Committee for Competitive Excellence shall determine which diver is selected.

4.4 Additional 1-meter Spots

- a) If a 1-meter diver is selected to the team via 4.1 or 4.2, the second 1-meter spot for that age group/gender will be awarded to the diver with the highest cumulative score on 1-meter who is already on the team.
- b) If no 1-meter diver for an age group/gender is selected via 4.1 or 4.2, the two 1-meter spots for that age group/gender will be awarded to the two divers with the highest cumulative scores on 1-meter who are already on the team.
- c) If no other team members competed on 1-meter, the High Performance Director in consultation with the Committee for Competitive Excellence will determine the entry based on other divers on the team or the spot may remain unfilled.
- d) Divers selected to compete 1-meter via 4.4 will not be determined until just prior to the LOC entry deadline (July 1) in order to allow any divers who may be selected via section 6 to be considered for a 1-meter spot.

5/ MIXED TEAM EVENT

The High Performance Director and AQUA Junior Diving Championships coaching staff

will determine the entries for the mixed team event based on divers already on the team.

6/ REPLACEMENT ATHLETES

6.1 If an athlete member needs to be replaced due to injury, illness, removal, or voluntary withdrawal prior to the final entry deadline (July 1), the following procedures will be used to select a replacement athlete or team in the individual and synchronized diving events.

- a) If an athlete who needs to be replaced was selected to compete in only one individual event, the next-ranked athlete in that event will be selected.
- b) If an athlete who needs to be replaced was selected to compete only in a synchronized event, USA Diving may identify a replacement partner for the remaining diver based on
 - Prior competition history together
 - Evaluations from Synchro Assessment Camps
 - Another diver already on the AQUA Junior Diving Championships team
 - If a suitable replacement cannot be identified, USA Diving may invite the next-placed team if doing so would not result in a team size of more than 24 divers, or the event may be left open.
- c) If an athlete who needs to be replaced was selected in an individual Olympic event and 1-meter, the next-highest ranking athlete in the Olympic event will be selected. The 1-meter spot will be filled with a diver already on the team based on criteria in 4.4.
- d) If an athlete who needs to be replaced was selected to the team in both individual Olympic events,
 - 1) If the team size will remain at 24 divers or less, the next highest-ranked athlete in both events will be added.
 - 2) If adding both of the next highest-ranked divers would result in a team size of more than 24 divers, the diver who placed the highest in the other Olympic event will be selected.
 - i. If the divers both finished the same in the other event or if neither diver competed in the other event, the diver who finished the highest on 1-meter will be selected
 - ii. If the divers tied on 1-meter or if neither diver competed on 1-meter, the High Performance Director and Committee for Competitive Excellence will determine which diver is selected.
- e) If a diver needs to be replaced in an individual Olympic event and a synchronized event, the next-highest ranked athlete in the individual event will be selected.
 - 1) The High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE will fill the synchronized spot with a diver already on the team or, if there are fewer than 24 divers on the team, may consider finding a replacement partner who is not already on the team using the criteria outlined in 6.1.b.
- f) If a diver who needs to be replaced was selected only in a 1-meter event, the following process will be followed:
 - 1) If there is an age group/gender that was not offered an invitation via 4.2 because the team size had reached its maximum size, the procedures in 4.2

would be followed to select a 1-meter diver in an age group/gender that had not yet been invited

- 2) If all age groups/genders were offered an invitation via 4.2, the 1-meter spot will be filled by the procedures in 4.4.
- g) If a diver accepts an invitation to compete in multiple events and needs to withdraw from one but not all events, the process to fill the vacant spot will be determined by team size
- 1) If there are 24 athletes on the team, the vacant spot will be filled with a diver already on the team or the spot will remain unfilled.
 - 2) If there are fewer than 24 athletes on the team and the open spot is in an individual Olympic event, the next-ranked diver in that event will be invited.
 - 3) If there are fewer than 24 divers on the team and the open spot is in a synchronized event, the High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE will attempt to identify a suitable replacement partner for the remaining synchro diver using the criteria outlined in 6.1.b.

6.2 If an athlete member needs to be replaced after the final entry deadline (July 1), the decision regarding replacement(s) will be made by the High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE with final approval by the Local Organizing Committee and AQUA.

6.3 If an athlete is unable to participate while at the event, the decision regarding replacement(s) will be made by the Head Coach in consultation with the Coaching Staff, High Performance Director, High Performance Manager and/or Team Leader.

7/ COACH MEMBER SELECTION PROCEDURES

7.1 COACH OF RECORD

A coach member may only be considered for selection to the team if a diver declares them as his or her “Coach of Record” prior to the start of the 2026 World Junior Diving Championship Trials. Once the event has begun, the “Coach of Record” cannot be changed. All references to “coach member” below indicate the official coach of record. The “Coach of Record” may be different than the diver’s coach at the Trials but must be declared prior to the start of the meet. Coach members must be current members in good standing with USA Diving to be considered.

7.2 OFFICIAL COACH MEMBERS

Four AQUA Junior Diving Championship Team Coach Members: (In Order Until Filled)

The coach members will be ranked using a point system. The top four coach members using this point system will be named to the staff. Qualifying spots, not additional events, will be used.

1. Divers in individual Olympic events (3m & PLT) count as one (1) spot per diver.
2. Divers in synchronized events count as one (1) spot per diver.

If there is a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used, in order, until the coach members are selected:

- a) The coach member with the most athletes on the team will be selected.
- b) The coach member with the most first-place spots in Olympic events on the team will be selected.

- c) The coach member with the most second-place spots in Olympic events on the team will be selected.
- d) The coach member with the most 1-meter champions on the team will be selected.
- e) If still tied, the High Performance Director or High Performance Manager, in consultation with the Committee for Competitive Excellence (CCE), shall select the coach member that will best serve the team's needs.

Should the selected coach of record be unable to attend, their approved designated assistant may be considered as a replacement only after all coach(es) of record have been considered for the available official coach member position(s). Once the official coach positions are filled, additional coaches may be invited to attend as self-funded, dependent on the number of accreditations. The Coach of Record may be changed for the self-funded coach member position(s) pending approval of the HPD in consultation with the CCE.

Note: All coach members accepting the role will be expected to assist the staff with whatever is necessary. We realize coach members are there to coach; however, with 24 minors on the trip, supervision will be the responsibility of everyone in Croatia.

Team staff shall be selected by the High Performance Director in consultation with the CCE with final approval from the President/CEO and AAC Rep.