



**USA Team Handball**  
**Athlete Selection Procedures**  
**2024 IHF Women's Beach World Championships**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

- a. The minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team are as follows:
1. Nationality and Passport requirements:  
Athletes must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the competition.
  2. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or NACHC:  
Any competitor in the NACHC competition must be a national of the country of the National Federation and member of USATH.
  3. Minimum International Handball Federation (IHF) and/or North American and Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) standards for participation:  
Upon notification by the Governing Bodies, USA Team Handball ("USATH") will immediately post the standards on the USATH web page at <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball>.  
Athletes must be at least 16 years old at the time they take part in the 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships.
  4. Other requirements (if any):
    - Athletes must be members of the USATH and in good standing.
    - Athletes ages 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screening in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
    - Athletes ages 18 or older as of the end of competition will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training.
- b. Tryout Events:  
USATH's selection criteria is a dynamic process whereby all available and eligible athletes are continuously assessed in all below listed activities, including upcoming activities as posted on the USATH website. There will be one virtual tryout for the Women's Beach Handball National Team. All athletes will be continuously encouraged to try out for the USATH Women's Beach Handball National Teams program.



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The events at which athletes will be evaluated are subject to change. Dates for any events, trials or camps will be announced and posted on USATH's website <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball> at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the evaluations and events. The athletes will be advised of any change in events at which they will be evaluated at least fourteen (14) days prior to such event.

**Ongoing Screening and Selection to the National Team Pool:**

From time to time, one (1) or more members of the Women's Beach National Team Selection Committee ("WBNTSC") will observe athletes at various events including but not limited to all levels of handball competitions and events, interscholastic and collegiate handball competitions and events, club or league handball events, and events coordinated/sanctioned by USATH. Observation by members of the selection committee at such events is solely for the purpose of general scouting.

Athletes identified through the ongoing screening process, who perform at the level competitive in the current international field, will be considered for placement in the USATH Women's Beach National Team program. The selection member present at an "Ongoing Screening Event" may submit a written report of their observations to the remaining members of the selection committee or participate in a discussion of the athlete's performance with other members of the selection committee.

Athletes who merit invitation to the National Team Pool may be invited to participate as a member of the Beach National Team Program by the WNT Head Coach for Beach Handball.

In the past, a few dual citizens and exceptional athletes (exceptional by virtue of their current competition level, participation in a European League, or by virtue of a physical/skill evaluation and referral), including some athletes who may be currently unknown to USATH, will surface and be contacted regarding their desire to be considered for the USA Team Handball National Team Pool and Program. In these circumstances, the athletes will be directed to participate in one of the events where they can be evaluated. If this is not possible, a special tryout might be arranged at a time and place mutually agreed upon.



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Should an athlete be selected for the National Team Pool based on video submission, they must make themselves available for the following in-person evaluation, whether this be a national team camp, friendly or tournament.

1. The following explains how athletes will proceed through the selection process to become Team nominees (including maximum Team size).

The members of the USATH Women's 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships Team will be selected using the selection criteria contained in these procedures. The maximum allowable number of players, 10 per gender will be selected.

The following athletes are eligible for selection to the Women's 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships Team

- Athletes must be eligible for nomination to the USA Team Beach Handball Women's 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships Team per Section 1.1;
- Athletes who have been selected as a member of a USA Team Beach Handball Women's National Team, during the period commencing in January 1, 2021 through the day of selection;
- Athletes invited to a USA Team Beach Handball Training Camps during the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 period;
- Athletes identified through the ongoing screening process described and selected for inclusion in the Beach WNT program.
- Members of the National Team Pool.

Participation in any USA Women's Beach National Team activities does not guarantee selection to the USA Women's Beach National Team, Women's 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships Team



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### Observations and Evaluations of Athletes.

At the Evaluative activities described in Section 2 above, one (1) or more members of the MBNTSC will observe and evaluate athletes. Observation and evaluation duties may be divided among the members of the WBNTSC and each member's observations will be reported to the other members of the committee. Athletes will be observed and evaluated in accordance with procedures outlined herein using the Selection Criteria. It is intended that the Observation and evaluation of athletes will be an ongoing process.

As indicated in these Selection Procedures, it is possible that each athlete being considered in selection to the Women's 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships Team may not have been observed at the same Evaluative Events or as many Evaluative Events as other athletes also being considered for the Women's 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships Team.

#### Selection Criteria:

1. Preference will be given based on the development potential of the candidate for the 2024 competition cycle
2. Athletes will be evaluated on competencies in the following areas with additional accounting for level of competitive play:
  - Positive/Negative individual action
  - Positive/ Negative collaboration action
  - Positive/Negative Team action
  - Positive/Negative Specialized action
  
  - Follow-Up action

#### **Description of the actions:**

- Phases: Attack: Turnovers/Shots/Blocks/Off-Target actions/Penalties
- Defense: Defensive Impact Zones, Defensive duel readiness, Interceptions (dynamic vs static), Collaboration with the goalie, Zonal Collaboration, transformations and permutates.
- Goalkeeping: fastbreak initiation, Goal Impact zones' success, Saving percentages

#### **Technical Gestures per positions:**

- Wing and Center Players: Suspension shot, breakthrough actions, 2-on-1 actions, collaboration actions. Positional play readiness, and execution of set plays, two-point shot efficiency & variety, counterattack readiness, aborted fastbreaks, positive fastbreaks' efficiency, multidimensional receptions
- Pivots: adaptability, somatic control, multidimensional receptions, blocks, Ideal use of space, collaboration with first line of attack, and 6 meters shot's efficacy.
- Specialist: shot efficiency, corner shots, 2-on-1 actions,



- Defense: 2-on-1 situations, block ability, somatic control, dissuasion, anticipation, counter attack initiation
- Goalkeeping: Saving efficacy per goal's zones, effective use of the goal area, efficiency on outside shots, two-point shots, breakthrough shots and through shots, fastbreak initiation, and technical-tactical readiness, use of defense.

**Additionally, all candidates will be evaluated on their ability to perform Beach Handball-related technical gestures. The evaluation will assess the players' aptitude to execute Beach Handball-related actions that are required at the international and high performing level.**

**The players must be able perform a good repertoire of shooting techniques, as well as to show understanding of the concepts of continuation, payers' fixation and multidimensional assist to their teammates.**

**Key Attributes:**

- Preferred Hand
- Preferred position
- International Level Handball Specific Fitness
- International Competitive Readiness

**Other Attributes:**

- teamwork,
- coachability,
- attitude
  
- mental toughness

In selecting athletes to be members of the Women's National Team for Beach Handball, the Selection Committee will consider information, specifically observations and statistical evaluations, both objective and discretionary data will be utilized. Athletes will be evaluated on physical attributes, jumping ability, throwing skills, lateral quickness, defensive anticipation, ball handling, reaction speed and scoring efficiency. Additionally, competencies in the categories of international success and team chemistry will be taken into consideration

**Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any):**

In selecting athletes to be members of the 2024 China World championship Team, the WBNTSC will consider information, specifically observation and statistical evaluation, of both objective and discretionary nature, that pertains to the criteria listed here and in Section 1.3.

The selection procedures of a team handball player has to concern itself with the individual's overall performance and his/her contribution to the performance of the team as a whole in interaction with the other players. Cumulative Performance Evaluation, and/or systematic participation will be considered as a fundamental requirement for selection.



**Incomplete submissions:**

The selection committee reserves the right to disregard or include incomplete try-out submissions as long as the athlete has registered on sports80 by the communicated deadline of Friday May 10th, 2024 - 11:59 PM PST

**2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

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 has to be considered. It is the belief of the MBNTSC that considering the mix of SelectionCriteria, which includes discretionary components in evaluation of performance ability andother 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.

2.2. The following is the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members currently serving on the committee and their titles:

The USA Team Handball Selection Committees, which includes the requisite minimum of 33 percent of athlete representation, is responsible for making all athlete selections for the National Teams.

Women’s National Team Selection Committee:

<b>Women’s Beach National Team Selection Committee</b>	
1. Daniel Lara Cobos	Women’s Beach Head National Team Coach
2. Julio Sainz	USATH Technical Coach
3. Michelle Mensing	Women’s Beach National Team Assistant Coach
4. Marilyn Elder	Women’s Beach National Team Assistant Coach
5. Athlete Representative	
6. Athlete Representative	
7. USATH Representative (non-voting)	



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2.4. Potential Conflict of Interests:

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Furthermore, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance (ex: a national team coach or high performance director) may provide such information to the committee if requested by the selection committee, so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.



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**3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee, the NGB/HPMO has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Team Handball:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written statement to the USA Team Handball CEO
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by an approved USA Team Handball physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved USA Team Handball physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the USA Team Handball's Code of Conduct (Attachment A).
- 3.1.4. An athlete selected as a member of the USATH Representative (non-voting), may be recommended for removal from the Team by the WBNTSC for any action determined by the selection committee to be detrimental to a Team, USA Team Handball or any USA Team Handball athlete, coach or staff member. If an athlete is recommended for removal from the Team, he/she will receive written notification of such removal recommendation from the selection committee in advance of the USATH CEO's approval of his or her removal.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Team Handball's Bylaws, Article 14 or the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USATH, USATH will retain jurisdiction.

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of USATH, NACHC, IHF, WADA, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

3.4.

**4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

When the WBNTSC makes their final selection for the Team(s), they will name a number of athletes as replacement athletes, from which replacement players will be selected.

1. Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, include





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any applicable group or committee:

When the WBNTSC makes their final selection for the Team(s), they will name a number of athletes as replacement athletes, from which replacement players will be selected. Replacement athletes will be selected in a manner consistent with the process and criteria in Sections 1.3 and 2, based on the overall needs of the team.

2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

When the WBNTSC makes their final selection for the Team(s), they will name a number of athletes as replacement athletes, from which replacement players will be selected.

Replacement athletes will be selected in a manner consistent with the process and criteria in Sections 1.3 and 2, based on the overall needs of the team.

**5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USA Team Handball will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the end date of the competition.

**6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

In addition to the USATH Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the USATH Women's 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships Team and are listed in Appendix A:

USATH athletes, as a condition of participation, must abide by USATH's Policies. (Appendix A).

**7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES:**

The USATH approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Team Handball in the following locations:

- 7.1. NGB Website: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball>.
- 7.2. NGB Official Publication (if any): Not Applicable

**8. DATE OF NOMINATION:**

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## **9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

A specific training program will be developed for athletes selected to the USATH Women's 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships Team. Once the program is developed, affected athletes will be informed as soon as possible regarding mandatory training, competition and event. Each member of the selected Team is expected to participate in the developed program of training.

All requests for waivers from participation in mandatory events must be presented to the WBNTSC in writing prior to the event. As soon as practical after receipt of the request, the WBNTSC will review the request and approve or deny it. All waivers must be granted by the WBNTSC in writing.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC/USATH anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

## **11. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USA Team Handball Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in the USA Team Handball Bylaws, Article 14 at the following link

<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-team-handball/about/governance/corporate-documents>

## **12. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on USATH and NACHC as applicable, and/or International Handball Federation rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in International Handball Federation 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 will be revised.

## **13. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- a. Michelle Mensing, Women's Beach National Team Assistant Coach
- b. Martin Branick, CEO USATH
- c. Mark Ortega, Athlete Representative



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**14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by NGB/ HP MO may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at <https://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombuds>:

Contact Kacie Wallace at: Telephone: 719-866-2299, or Email: [kacie@usathlete.org](mailto:kacie@usathlete.org)

**15. NGB SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF 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.**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
USA Team Handball CEO	Martin Branick		
USOPC Athletes’ Advisory Council Representative*	Mark Ortega		
USA Women’s Beach Handball National Team Head Coach	Daniel Lara Cobos		

## Appendix A

**Policies of USATH that athletes must adhere to can be found here:**

[Corporate Documents \(teamusa.org\)](http://teamusa.org)

These policies include the following:

Code of Conduct

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Whistle Blower Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy