

2026 July-December IJF World Tour Event Selection Procedure

Awarding of Spots for Event Selections

Selections for Grand Prix and Grand Slam tournaments will be awarded in descending order (i.e., No. 1 selection, No. 2 selection, etc.), beginning with athletes ranked highest on the IJF Senior World Ranking List (WRL) published following the conclusion of the **Senior IJF events held up to June 28, 2026.**

Event Selection Process:

Round 1

- Athletes ranked No. 1 in their respective weight divisions will be awarded their top three (3) choices for Grand Prix and Grand Slam events.
- Athletes ranked No. 2 will receive their top two (2) choices.
- Athletes ranked No. 3 and below (No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, etc.) will be awarded their first available choice from their submitted Grand Prix and/or Grand Slam preferences.
- *Note:* A maximum of two (2) athletes per weight division per country may participate in each Grand Prix or Grand Slam event.

Round 2

- Starting again from the top of the WRL and proceeding in descending order within each weight division, USA Judo will award the next available Grand Prix or Grand Slam event listed on each athlete's selection list.

Round 3 and Beyond

- Subsequent rounds (Round 3, Round 4, etc.) will follow the same process as Round 2 until all available Grand Prix and Grand Slam spots have been allocated.

Important Considerations

- Athletes may not be awarded every Grand Prix or Grand Slam event for which they submit selections.
- This process is designed to ensure a fair and transparent opportunity for eligible and qualified athletes to attend international events.

Unfilled Roster Spots

- Any remaining spots for Grand Prix or Grand Slam events will be filled according to the procedure outlined below.

Open Spot Procedure - Grand Prix and Grand Slams

- Athletes must submit open spot requests via email to **Alex.Bates@usajudo.us** by the specific deadline posted for each tournament.
- Only athletes who meet the minimum performance standards and eligibility criteria for Grand Prix and Grand Slam events may submit an open spot request.
- It is the athlete's responsibility to regularly check posted event rosters and deadlines, as spots may become available due to changes in participation.
- If an athlete is not awarded their initial event selection, it is strongly recommended that they still submit an open spot request—even if no openings are currently listed.
- USA Judo will review all submitted requests and evaluate athletes based on their WRL ranking as of the posted deadline for each event. The highest-ranked eligible athlete will be selected to fill any available open spot.
- If a spot becomes available after the posted open spot request deadline (e.g., due to late withdrawals, injuries, etc.), USA Judo may be unable to fill it if logistical deadlines—such as hotel bookings, transportation arrangements, or payment requirements—set by the event's organizing committee have already passed.

Senior Continental Open Eligibility Rules

- Athletes must be listed on the **USA Judo Senior Elite National Roster** as of **May 9, 2026**, with a ranking of **“D Level” or higher** to qualify for Continental Opens.
 - Athletes who meet this requirement will remain eligible to compete in Continental Opens between **July 1 and December 31, 2026**, even if they are no longer on the current Senior Elite Roster.
 - Athletes not on the Senior Elite National Roster as of **May 9, 2026**, may request approval to compete in Continental Opens if they qualify after the cutoff date. To be eligible, they must hold a **current Senior Elite Roster ranking of “D Level” or higher**. Requests must be submitted to **Alex.Bates@usajudo.us** at least **45 days prior** to the Continental Open the athlete wishes to attend.

OR

- Have met the eligibility criteria for Grand Prix/Slam events