



USA Team Handball ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES 4th IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship Granollers, Spain | September 14–20, 2026 July 16, 2026

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection and eligible to represent the United States under the International Handball Federation (“IHF”) Player Eligibility Code.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire before March 20, 2027, unless the IHF or applicable travel authorities authorize a shorter period of validity.

1.1.2. Minimum International Handball Federation standards for participation:

Athlete must satisfy the IHF Player Eligibility Code and the current IHF Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules and Regulations and must be considered eligible by the IHF Wheelchair Handball Classification Team. An athlete who is not yet classified must timely provide all medical and classification documentation requested by USA Team Handball (“USATH”) or the IHF and successfully complete classification before competition.

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or Continental Federation (CF) standards for participation (if any):

Athlete must be at least 15 years old on September 14, 2026. An athlete who is 15 through 17 years old must provide written parental or guardian consent before the Championship.

The final roster and all match lineups must comply with the IHF four-a-side mixed-team and classification requirements described in Section 1.3.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a current USA Team Handball member in good standing and complete all registration and acknowledgment requirements by the stated deadlines.
- Athlete must meet applicable health and safety protocols established by governmental authorities, the USOPC, USATH, the IHF, or the local organizing committee.
- Any athlete age 18 or older must complete the background screen required by the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Athlete must remain current with applicable U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training requirements. Minors must complete the applicable SafeSport training for minors.
- Athlete must be medically cleared for high-performance training, international travel, classification, and competition, with or without reasonable accommodation.
- Athlete must be available for the Championship and required pre-event activities and remain compliant with the USATH Code of Conduct, team rules, anti-doping requirements, and other applicable policies.

1.2. Tryout and evaluation events: USATH’s selection process is cumulative and dynamic. All available and eligible athletes may be assessed through the activities and information listed below.



Participation in a prior national team, camp, competition, or evaluative activity does not guarantee selection.

1.2.1. Event names, dates, and locations of all trials, competitions, camps, and other activities to be used as part of the selection process:

- Selection process opens upon publication of these procedures.
- Application and video submission deadline: July 26, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Evaluation period: ongoing through August 9, 2026.
- Final team nomination: on or about August 16, 2026.
- 4th IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship: September 14–20, 2026, Granollers, Spain.

The Selection Committee may consider observation, video, testing, statistics, and performance information from the following:

- 2024 IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship;
- 2025–2026 USATH Wheelchair National Team activities;
- USATH camps and tryouts;
- other relevant wheelchair handball competition; and • performance in transferable adaptive sports.

Athletes need not have been observed at the same events or at the same number of events, provided the Selection Committee has sufficient information to apply these procedures fairly. USATH may add or modify an evaluative activity because of IHF deadlines, travel requirements, force majeure, or other unforeseen circumstances. Any material change will be communicated promptly to affected athletes and posted with these procedures or an approved amendment.

1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events and evaluation process listed in Section 1.2.1:

All athletes seeking selection must complete the published Sport:80 registration and submit all requested availability, passport, membership, medical/classification, and video materials by the application deadline. The Sport:80 event listing will contain the submission link and file-format instructions.

An applicant who has not been directly evaluated by Wheelchair National Team staff in a USATH national team activity, camp, or competition during the six months preceding the application deadline must submit current, unedited or clearly sequenced video sufficient to evaluate:

- at least five defensive actions, including chair positioning, lateral movement, communication, switching, contact management, and recovery;
- at least five offensive actions, including ball handling, passing, shooting, movement without the ball, transition play, and decision-making; and
- chair control and physical readiness, including acceleration, stopping, change of direction, and repeated high-intensity movement.

USATH may request additional video, testing, medical/classification documentation, or a remote interview when reasonably necessary to complete an evaluation. Failure to provide requested information by a communicated deadline may make the athlete ineligible for consideration.

1.3. Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process for this event (include maximum Team size):



One or more members of the USA Team Handball Wheelchair National Team Selection Committee (“Selection Committee” or “SC”) will observe and evaluate athletes through the activities and information described in Section 1.2. Observation and evaluation duties may be divided among members, but relevant observations and evaluations will be shared with the voting members before the final decision. Evaluation is intended to be an ongoing and cumulative process.

The SC will apply the criteria below and in Section 2 and Appendices B and C. Both objective information and discretionary judgment will be used. No single criterion guarantees selection.

Selection Criteria

- **Technical performance.** Ball handling with either hand; passing range and accuracy; shooting accuracy and range; receiving and delivering the ball under pressure; goal-area execution; and role-specific skills.
- **Tactical performance.** Decision-making in attack, defense, transition, set play, and special situations; spacing; recognition of threats and advantages; defensive communication and switching; and capacity to execute the team’s tactical plan.
- **Chair skills.** Acceleration, top-end speed, starting and stopping, change of direction, chair control, use of angles, contact management, recovery, and safe movement in game conditions.
- **Physical readiness.** Repeated-sprint ability, endurance, strength, mobility, recovery, and capacity to sustain elite performance throughout a multi-day international tournament.
- **Competitive readiness.** Current performance against appropriate competition, prior highlevel handball or transferable adaptive-sport experience, composure under pressure, and readiness to perform internationally.
- **Team contribution.** Communication, collaboration, coachability, professionalism, accountability, maturity, resilience, adherence to team standards, and willingness to place team objectives ahead of individual objectives.
- **Roster construction.** The mix of sport classes, gender, preferred hands, roles, tactical profiles, leadership, experience, matchups against anticipated opponents, and ability to field effective legal lineups within IHF classification limits.
- **Availability and adaptability.** Availability for required preparation and travel; ability to learn and implement new concepts; ability to perform multiple roles, including goal-area responsibilities where required; and capacity to adapt to opponent and lineup changes.

Maximum Team Size and IHF Roster Requirements

On or before the nomination date, the SC will nominate up to ten (10) athletes and may identify a replacement pool. The final roster and match lineups must comply with the IHF’s four-a-side rules, including:

- a maximum roster of ten (10) players, with at least eight (8) players present at the beginning of a match;
- at least two (2) female players on the roster, unless the applicable competition regulations state otherwise, and at least one (1) female player on the court at all times;
- no more than eleven (11) total classification points among the four players on court at any time, subject to any lower limit applicable when a team is reduced to fewer than four players; and
- eligibility of every player as determined by the IHF Wheelchair Handball Classification Team.

Selections will be based on the cumulative observation, statistics, testing, video, written materials, and deliberation of the SC. USATH will provide written notice of the selection



decision to applicants and publicly announce the roster after completion of any required internal and USOPC review.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

Wheelchair handball is a team sport rather than a measured or timed event. Athletes perform different tactical roles and carry different classification-point values, and the team must satisfy mixed-gender and on-court classification requirements. Objective metrics alone cannot determine which combination of athletes will form the strongest legal, cohesive, and competitive roster.

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

The SC may exercise discretion in applying the criteria in Section 1.3 and Appendices B and C, including positional and role depth, sport-class balance, gender composition, preferred-hand balance, team chemistry, tactical needs, anticipated opponents, injury or medical status, current readiness, and the athlete's contribution to the performance of the team as a whole.

Discretion must be exercised consistently with these procedures and may not be based on a protected characteristic except where an IHF competition rule expressly requires roster or lineup composition based on sex. Cumulative performance evaluation and sufficient participation in the selection process to permit a fair evaluation are fundamental requirements for selection.

2.3. Name the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

The USA Team Handball Wheelchair National Team Selection Committee, which includes the requisite minimum of 33.3% athlete representation, is responsible for making all athlete selections for the Team.

Selection Committee

USATH-Designated Wheelchair National Team Technical Representative (Chair)
Additional Wheelchair National Team Technical Representative Designated by USATH
Athlete Representative
USATH Representative Staff Member (non-voting)

2.3.1. 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 USATH and USOPC conflict-of-interest policies and complete any required disclosure before participating. A member with an actual, potential, or perceived conflict must disclose it to the appropriate USATH ethics authority before the selection process begins and must recuse from deliberations and voting to the extent directed.



A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team, or business interest of a committee member creates a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in an unbiased manner. The appropriate USATH ethics authority will review the conflict and determine the member's permissible level of involvement.

If a conflicted member possesses relevant and necessary performance information, the ethics authority may permit the member to provide that information at the SC's request, provided it is presented fairly and the conflicted member does not vote or otherwise influence the final decision. A recused voting member will be replaced under USATH's selection-committee appointment process when necessary to preserve required athlete representation.

Any person with a good-faith belief that a committee member has a conflict may report the concern to USATH. Reports may be made anonymously where permitted. No committee member or USATH representative may retaliate against a person who makes a good-faith report or participates in review of a reported conflict.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, USA Team Handball has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete nominated to the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined through applicable USATH procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal submitted in writing to the USATH Chief Executive Officer or designee.
- Injury, illness, or loss of medical clearance that prevents safe participation. USATH may require written clearance or verification from a licensed healthcare provider approved by USATH. USATH will consider reasonable accommodations consistent with athlete safety, the essential requirements of international competition, and applicable law.
- Failure to satisfy or maintain an eligibility requirement in Section 1.1, including IHF classification eligibility.
- Failure, without an approved waiver, to participate in a mandatory activity identified under Section 9.
- Violation of the USA Team Handball Code of Conduct or other applicable team rule or policy.
- Conduct determined through applicable USATH procedures to be materially detrimental to the Team, USATH, or another athlete, coach, or staff member.

Except where immediate action is required for safety, legal compliance, or an external deadline, the athlete will receive written notice of the proposed removal and information concerning the applicable grievance process. An athlete removed under this section has the right to pursue a hearing or grievance in accordance with USA Team Handball's Bylaws and applicable Athlete Grievance Procedures.

- 3.2. Once Entries by Name have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee:

USATH will administer the Team subject to applicable IHF and Local Organizing Committee rules, deadlines, and approval requirements. The applicable USATH and USOPC codes of conduct, athlete-safety requirements, and grievance procedures remain in force. External entry



or replacement deadlines may limit available remedies but do not eliminate an athlete's applicable grievance rights.

3.3. Anti-doping, SafeSport, and athlete-safety violations:

An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of applicable IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IHF, USADA, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy, and USA Team Handball's SafeSport policies, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

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

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

The SC will identify potential replacements during the initial selection process. If a vacancy occurs, the SC will select a replacement from the replacement pool or other eligible applicants by applying the same eligibility, selection, discretionary, mixed-team, and classification-balance considerations stated in these procedures.

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

The SC will apply the same process described in Section 4.1.1, subject to IHF and Local Organizing Committee deadlines and approval requirements. The replacement selected will be the eligible athlete who best satisfies the Team's roster, classification, gendercomposition, and game-strategy needs under the criteria in Sections 1.3 and 2.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Team Handball will retain the approved Selection Procedures and material supporting selection records, including evaluation forms, scouting information, video, testing data, and committee records, for at least six months after the Championship or longer when required by law, policy, or a pending grievance.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to any applicable USOPC Code of Conduct, the documents listed in Appendix A are required to be acknowledged or signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Team.

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The approved Selection Procedures, complete and unaltered, will be posted by USA Team Handball in the following public location:

7.1. NGB/PSO website: <https://www.usateamhandball.org/selection-procedures>

These procedures will be posted as soon as practicable following approval by USA Team Handball and the USOPC.



8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including identification of potential replacements, will be announced to affected athletes and submitted on or about August 10, 2026, subject to the applicable IHF entry deadline and any required USOPC review.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Selected athletes are expected to complete the training, remote meetings, classification steps, travel document requirements, medical requirements, and competition preparation established for the Team. USATH will communicate mandatory dates and requirements as soon as reasonably practicable.

An athlete requesting a waiver or reasonable accommodation must submit the request in writing to the SC or its designated contact as soon as the conflict or need becomes known. The request will be considered promptly and in good faith, taking into account athlete safety, disability-related needs, medical circumstances, employment or family obligations, competitive readiness, and the essential needs of the Team. A waiver or accommodation must be confirmed in writing.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IHF, USADA, and USOPC antidoping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in out-of-competition testing as required by applicable rules.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following individuals and roles were responsible for developing and reviewing these Selection Procedures:

- Michael King, Chief Executive Officer, USA Team Handball;
- Andrew Donlin, Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative.

12. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Team Handball Bylaws, Athlete Grievance Procedures, and governance policies can be found at: [USATH Corporate Documents](#).

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IHF rules, classification regulations, and competition information presently known and understood. Any change required by the IHF, USOPC, Local Organizing Committee, or applicable law will be distributed to affected athletes promptly and handled through any required approval or amendment process.

The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Team Handball. Selection remains subject to unforeseen intervening circumstances and may not account for every possible contingency. If force majeure, travel restrictions, classification outcomes, or alteration or cancellation of an evaluative activity or the Championship requires revision, these procedures may be amended through the applicable approval process.



14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent, and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures, and related guidance concerning 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

Anti-Retaliation Statement

No employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of USA Team Handball or the USOPC shall take or threaten to take any action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

15. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards and criteria set by the IHF and incorporated those standards and criteria into these Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein represents the athlete-selection method approved by USA Team Handball.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
Chief Executive Officer	Michael King	Signed by: D2976610222B4A0...	7/16/2026
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative*	Andrew Donlin	DocuSigned by: D1054E5C733640F...	7/17/2026

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes confirmation that the representative has read and understands these Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative does not agree with the procedures submitted by USA Team Handball, the representative may submit the reasons in writing to the applicable USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative has delegated authority to another eligible athlete representative, documentation of that delegation should accompany the signed procedures.



Appendix A

Policies of USA Team Handball that athletes must adhere to can be found at [USATH Corporate Documents](#).

These policies include, as applicable:

- Code of Conduct
- Anti-Discrimination Policy
- Whistleblower Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Athlete Grievance Procedures
- SafeSport and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies
- Anti-Doping requirements and policies



Appendix B

Recognizing that a Team is more than the skills brought by its individual players, the Selection Committee will consider the mix of players in terms of positions and roles, sport classes, gender composition, experience, preferred hands, matchups against international opponents, legal lineup combinations, Team needs, and qualities beyond statistics and technical skills that contribute to the Team's overall success.

Expectations

Players are expected to:

- possess individual fundamental skills;
- possess team skills;
- place Team goals ahead of personal goals;
- be quick, powerful, well-conditioned, and able to sustain elite performance throughout a multiday tournament or camp;
- play effectively with and without the ball;
- learn and implement new concepts on the court;
- communicate effectively and contribute to team cohesion; and
- meet professional, conduct, and accountability expectations on and off the court.

Other Considerations

- balance of expertise in positions and roles;
- balance of sport classes, gender, and preferred hands;
- presence of experience and leadership;
- player interactions and team cohesiveness on and off the court;
- coachability, maturity, resilience, and respect for coaches, staff, and other players;
- individual performance and statistics from matches and scrimmages;
- testing results, video evaluation, and classification status;
- availability for preparation, travel, classification, and competition; and • anticipated international opponents and tactical matchups.

Specific Skills Ball-Handling Skills

- Dribbles with the dominant and non-dominant hand while moving.
- Passes accurately with the dominant and non-dominant hand.
- Uses a variety of passes and can pass effectively to players of all sport classes.
- Receives and delivers the ball under pressure and away from the defense.
- Makes sound decisions in transition and set play.

Chair Skills

- Top-end speed and repeated acceleration.
- Starts, stops, and changes direction efficiently.
- Moves the chair under control and uses proper angles.
- Manages contact, avoids unsafe contact, and recovers effectively.

Appendix B (continued)

Shooting and Goal-Area Skills

- Shooting accuracy and range.



- Ability to shoot with the non-dominant hand.
- Execution from 7 meters, 9 meters, and goal-to-goal situations.
- Composure, shot selection, and decision-making under pressure.
- Ability to perform goal-area responsibilities where required.

Team Play

- Works within the offense and creates opportunities for teammates.
- Places the best Team opportunity ahead of an individual shot.
- Communicates, collaborates, and adapts to different legal lineup combinations.
- Executes the Team's tactical plan and responds to coaching.

Defense

- Chair positioning and control.
- Communication and switching.
- Identification of threats and advantages.
- Contact management, recovery, and collaboration with teammates.

Physical and Competitive Readiness

- Repeated-sprint ability, endurance, strength, mobility, and recovery.
- Capacity to sustain elite performance over the full Championship.
- Composure under pressure and readiness for international competition.
- Ability to safely travel, train, classify, and compete with or without reasonable accommodation.

Appendix C

The following drills and situations may be used as part of performance testing. Specific details will be provided directly to affected athletes before or during an in-person or remote evaluation. Testing is one part of the holistic evaluation and is not independently dispositive.

- 6-meter / 6-meter / 6-meter sprint
- Wheelchair T-test or comparable change-of-direction test
- 7-meter shot-accuracy test
- 9-meter position shot-accuracy test
- Goal-to-goal shot-accuracy test
- Repeated-sprint testing
- Other wheelchair-handball-specific technical, tactical, or physical drills communicated to affected athletes