



## **USA TEAM HANDBALL**

### **Athlete Selection Procedures – Men’s Beach Senior National Team**

#### **2026 NACHC Senior Men’s Beach Handball Championships – St. Kitts and Nevis**

##### **1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

###### **a. Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Athletes**

To be considered for nomination to the team, an athlete must meet the following criteria:

###### **i. Nationality and Passport Requirements**

- Must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.
- Must hold a valid U.S. passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the competition.

###### **ii. International Federation and/or NACHC Requirements**

- Must be a national of the United States and a registered member of USA Team Handball (USATH).
- Must meet all participation standards established by the International Handball Federation (IHF) and the North American and Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC).
- Must be at least sixteen (16) years of age at the time of the competition.

###### **iii. Other Requirements**

- Must be a member in good standing with USA Team Handball.
- Athletes aged eighteen (18) or older must successfully complete a background screening in accordance with USOPC policies.
- Athletes aged eighteen (18) or older must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport online training prior to participation.

###### **b. Evaluation**

Athlete selection is a dynamic and ongoing process. All eligible athletes will be continuously evaluated through a variety of methods, including but not limited to:



- Virtual submissions to the Selection Committee
- Observation at domestic or international beach handball events, including leagues, tournaments, training camps, and other organized activities

The specific dates and locations of any official tryouts or evaluations conducted for the purpose of selection will be posted on the USA Team Handball website no fewer than fourteen (14) days in advance.

Athletes identified through ongoing scouting who demonstrate competitive international potential may be invited to participate in the National Team Pool.

## **2. SELECTION CRITERIA**

Athletes will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Performance in:**
  - Individual actions (positive and negative)
  - Team collaboration (positive and negative)
  - Specialized skills (goalkeeping, pivot, wing, and specialist roles)
- **Tactical and technical proficiency**, including:
  - Attack efficiency (shots, assists, turnovers, execution of set plays)
  - Defensive effectiveness (interceptions, blocking, positioning)
  - Goalkeeping ability (shot-stopping, fast-break initiation, situational awareness)
- Preferred hand and positional versatility
- Handball-specific fitness and international competition readiness
- Key personal attributes, including teamwork, coachability, attitude, and mental toughness

## **3. SELECTION PROCESS**



The Men's Beach National Team Selection Committee (MBNTSC) will evaluate eligible athletes based on a combination of observed performance, video submissions, and statistical analysis.

The final roster will consist of **ten (10) athletes**, with additional athletes named as alternates.

#### **a. Discretionary Selection**

Given the team-based nature of beach handball, discretionary selection may be used to ensure optimal team performance. Discretionary considerations may include:

- Balancing team dynamics and positional needs
- Selecting athletes with high tactical adaptability
- Valuing competitively significant prior experience, particularly in international competition

Athletes must submit their candidacy for selection via the USA Team Handball portal at **usateamhandball.sport80.com** no later than **February 22, 2026**. These procedures acknowledge and incorporate previous publication and incorporation of criteria and submission instructions via USATH channels and directly on Sport:80 beginning February 13, 2026.

The final roster will be announced no later than **March 3, 2026**.

#### **3.1 Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee will be comprised of **three (3) voting members**, including:

- One (1) athlete representatives selected by the Team Handball Athletes' Advisory Council
- Two (2) technical or coaching representatives
- One (1) non-voting USA Team Handball staff member

Any Selection Committee member with a potential conflict of interest must disclose such conflict. If a conflict exists, the member must recuse themselves from all discussions and voting related to the affected athlete(s) and must not otherwise attempt to influence the selection process.



A recused committee member who possesses relevant and necessary information regarding athlete performance (e.g., a national team coach or high performance staff member) may provide such information if requested by the Selection Committee, provided the information is presented in a fair and unbiased manner and the conflicted individual does not vote on the final decision.

#### **4. REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

An athlete may be removed from the team for any of the following reasons:

- Voluntary withdrawal, submitted in writing to the USA Team Handball CEO
- Injury or illness verified by a USA Team Handball–approved physician
- Violation of the USA Team Handball Code of Conduct or other applicable policies
- Any conduct deemed detrimental to the team, competition integrity, or USA Team Handball

Replacements will be selected from the alternate list based on team needs and selection criteria.

#### **5. RELEVANT POLICIES**

Athletes must comply with all USA Team Handball and USOPC policies throughout the selection process and competition, including but not limited to:

- USA Team Handball Code of Conduct
- Anti-Discrimination Policy
- Whistleblower Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Social Media Comment Policy
- USA Team Handball Bylaws

These policies are available at:

<https://www.usateamhandball.org/about/governance/corporate-documents>

#### **6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**



USA Team Handball will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documentation, including scouting reports, evaluation forms, conflict of interest disclosures, SafeSport certification records (where applicable), and data from the selection process, for **six (6) months** following the conclusion of the competition.

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

The USA Team Handball–approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted and published on the USA Team Handball website at:

<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball>

## **8. MANDATORY TRAINING AND COMPETITION**

Selected athletes must participate in all mandatory training camps, preparatory events, and competition activities designated by USA Team Handball.

## **9. ANTI-DOPING, COMPLIANCE, AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Athletes must comply with all applicable anti-doping rules and testing requirements established by **WADA, IHF, USADA, the USOPC**, and any other relevant governing bodies, including out-of-competition testing requirements.

Grievance and dispute resolution procedures are governed by the **USA Team Handball Bylaws, Article 14**, and applicable USOPC regulations.

## **10. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

Athletes with questions or concerns regarding their opportunity to compete, the selection process, or their rights may contact the independent USOPC Athlete Ombuds Office:

### **USOPC Athlete Ombuds Office**

Website: <https://www.teamusa.org/AthleteOmbuds>

Telephone: 719-866-2299

Email: [kacie@usathlete.org](mailto:kacie@usathlete.org)

## **11. ANTI-RETALIATION POLICY**

USA Team Handball strictly prohibits retaliation of any kind. No employee, contractor, volunteer, board member, coach, or agent of USA Team Handball or the USOPC may take or threaten adverse action against any individual for reporting in good faith, participating in, or



assisting with any complaint, inquiry, investigation, or grievance related to these Selection Procedures or applicable policies.

Any individual who believes they have been subjected to retaliation may report the matter to the USA Team Handball CEO, the USOPC Athlete Ombuds Office, or other appropriate compliance authorities. Retaliation constitutes a serious policy violation and may result in disciplinary action.

**12. DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

These Selection Procedures were developed and reviewed by USA Team Handball staff and stakeholders, including technical leadership and athlete representation, to ensure compliance with USOPC requirements, International Federation standards, and principles of fairness and transparency.

**13. NGB SIGNATURES**

I certify that I have read and understand the standards and criteria established by the International Handball Federation (IHF) and the North American and Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) and that those standards have been incorporated into these Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information contained herein represents the athlete selection method approved by USA Team Handball.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USATH CEO	Michael King	Signed by: <i>Michael King</i> D2976610222B4A0...	2/16/2026
Men's Senior Beach Head Coach	Michael Hinson	DocuSigned by: <i>MHinson</i> 38F451C4488E462...	2/16/2026
Team Handball AAC Alternate Representative	Julia Taylor	Signed by: <i>Julia Taylor</i> FC85C16293BB433...	2/16/2026