

USA Artistic Swimming (USAAS)

Duet and Team Athlete Selection Procedures

2025 World Championships

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SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the 2025 World Championship for USA Artistic Swimming (USAAS).

The maximum number of athletes allowable for the AQUA World Championships is twelve (12) athletes (not including Mixed Duet). IF quotas are awarded by quota places.

SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport at the time of nomination that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2025 World Championships.
2. Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Requirements:
 - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the LOC.
3. International Federation (IF) Requirements:
 - Athletes must be fifteen (15) years of age or older (on or prior to December 31st in the year of the competition) in accordance with World Aquatics (AQUA) Artistic Swimming Rules. (<https://www.worldaquatics.com/artistic-swimming/rules>)
 - Qualification systems for AQUA World Championships, may be found at <https://www.worldaquatics.com/artistic-swimming/competitions>.
 - Only athletes who are eligible to participate at the official AQUA competitions, in accordance with the [AQUA Rules](#), are entitled to participate in World Championship events.
4. USAAS Requirements:
 - Athlete must be a member in good standing of USAAS at the time of nomination.
 - USAAS defines good standing as a registered member of the organization that has no outstanding payments, is not suspended and has completed all membership requirements (e.g., SafeSport training).
 - Athlete must meet the requirements of the Senior National Team Agreement found at <https://www.usaartisticswim.org/trials-openings-and-judges> and comply with the [USAAS Athlete Code of Conduct](#), and [USAAS SafeSport Policy](#).
 - Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony of the 2025 World Championships will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USAAS Background Check Policy](#).
 - Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
 - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the World Championship.

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- Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the World Championship.
- Agree to be bound by and adhere to WADA, IF, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of WADA, IF, USADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable.

SECTION 3: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

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

Team Selection:

Athlete must be a member of the 2024 Senior National Team or a member of the Senior National Training Squad selected on April 14-15, 2024 or April 13-14, 2025.

Duet Selection:

Athlete must be a member of the 2024 Senior National Duet Team or a member of the 2025 Senior National Duet Training Squad selected in December 2024.

A preliminary notice regarding the April 2024 Senior National Training Squad selection can be found at <https://www.usaartisticswim.org/national-team-trials>

Additional selection information for the Senior National Training Squad and the 2025 Senior National Duet Training Squad can be found in the [2025-2028 USA Artistic Swimming Senior National Team Program Criteria](#).

SECTION 4: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the IF Qualification System.

A. Team Size

The maximum number of athletes allowable for the AQUA World Championships is twelve (12) athletes (not including Mixed Duet; for Mixed Duet procedures, see Appendix E of the USAAS Rulebook found at <https://www.usaartisticswim.org/rule-book>).

A minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) athletes will be nominated as the World Championship Duet. These athletes will count toward the maximum of twelve (12) athletes.

B. Athlete Eligibility

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Team: Open to (1) the 2024 Senior National Team; and (2) Senior National Training Squad members who advanced from Phase 1 and who have signed full-time training agreements to train at the National Training Center.

Duet: Open to (1) the 2024 Senior National Olympic Duet and alternates; and (2) 2025 Senior National Duet Training Squad members training full-time at the National Training Center who advanced from Phase 2.

C. Athlete Assessment

The assessment process is carried out by “Assessors” consisting of two (2) Senior National Team coaches (which includes the Senior Head Coach and a Senior Assistant Coach designated by the Chief of Sport) and the Chief of Sport (or designee).

The Assessors will evaluate each athlete’s performance over the full-time training as part of the training squad. The assessment is further defined in the Nomination Criteria found at <https://www.usaartisticswim.org/trials-openings-and-judges> and will include review of the evaluation content, discussions and finalization of nominees.

- The Assessors will consistently observe and evaluate athletes at training and competitions. They are looking for athletes who are performing at a level that is competitive in the current Senior international field and will be competitive in the Senior international field within the next four (4) years. The Assessors will fill out the Nomination Criteria to provide clear and consistent feedback to each athlete.

Each athlete on the training squad is ranked by each Assessor and the rankings will determine the order of athletes being put forward as recommended nominees to be reviewed for final approval by the Selection Committee (see Section 5). Athlete nominations will be communicated to all training squad athletes after nominations are approved by the Selection Committee.

In the event of a conflict between this overview and the IF Qualification System, the IF Qualification System will take precedent.

For more details, please refer to the IF Qualification System directly here:

<https://www.worldaquatics.com/artistic-swimming/competitions>

SECTION : DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES

5.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

The sport of artistic swimming is a subjectively judged event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team or duet, it may not always be possible to make decisions based solely on objective criteria. To be competitive in the team and duet events, certain skillsets must be exhibited by one or more

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team/duet members. In addition, it is crucial that the athletes demonstrate the ability to complement each other, to work cohesively and to make and retain corrections consistently.

5.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

A. 2025 World Championship Duet Nomination

The Selection Committee will consider the following performance-related factors (list is not in priority order) and will evaluate the athletes according to AQUA rules.

- The information submitted by the Assessors based on the [Nomination Criteria](#) and their recommendations based on their evaluation of each athlete (see Section 4).
- Technical and Free Duet routine evaluation as determined by the Chief of Sport (or designee) and the Senior Head Coach. This may include any parts or run-throughs of the routines individually, in pairs or in groups.
- Coaches' evaluation of each athlete from the start of full-time training until nomination.

B. 2025 World Championship Team Nomination

The Selection Committee will consider the following performance-related factors (list is not in priority order) and will evaluate the athletes according to AQUA rules.

- The information submitted by the Assessors based on the [Nomination Criteria](#) and their recommendations based on their evaluation of each athlete (see Section 4).
- Technical, Free and Acrobatic Team routine evaluations as determined by the Chief of Sport (or designee) and the Senior Head Coach. This may include any parts or run-throughs of the routines individually, in pairs or in groups, in pattern or not.
- Coaches' evaluation of each athlete

5.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE

The committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections or other decisions and recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process.

2025 World Championship Selection Committee:

- Team USA Athletes' Commission representative or another retired ten-year athlete representative as designated by the USAAS Athlete Executive Council
- Vice President Olympic International (or designee)
- Chief of Sport (or designee)

5.4 USAAS PETITION PROCEDURES

- A) USAAS recognizes that extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances may occur which would cause an athlete to be unable to participate in one or more steps of the process because of illness, injury or other unforeseen circumstances.

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1. In order to be considered by the National Team Review Subcommittee (see Section 5.4 (B)), petitions must be submitted via email to the Chief of Sport as soon as practical after the athlete becomes aware of their inability to participate and no later than a month prior the competition. Petitions are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and subject to approval by the National Team Review Subcommittee based on the circumstances surrounding the athlete's inability to participate or newly discovered eligibility based on rule changes. Details regarding the status of the petition will be provided in writing to the petitioner as soon as practical, but no more than seven (7) days after receipt of the petition.
2. Successful petitioners will be required to execute their trial based on the [Nomination Criteria](#) (see Section 4 (C)), as soon as possible after being medically cleared and/or ahead of the nearest event nomination deadline.
3. Petition Rights: Eligible athletes may petition to USAAS for the right to be assessed at a later date for the 2025 World Championships.
 - i. For an athlete to petition, the athlete must have been selected in a phase that makes them eligible for nomination to the 2025 World Championships.
4. All petitions must state the specific injury, illness or unusual circumstance, which prohibited the athlete from participating in the competitive process.
5. An athlete who successfully petitions and subsequently achieves an evaluation that is higher than any one athlete will replace a member of the team or duet who was previously nominated. The lowest scoring athlete nominated at the nomination event will move to the alternate position and the alternate, if named, will no longer hold that position.
 - i. In the event of a tie between the petitioner and the lowest scoring nominated athlete, the assessors will make the final recommendation, and the selection committee will make the final determination in accordance with Section 5.

B) The National Team Review Subcommittee will receive and determine the status of all petitions and waivers submitted through the process.

The [National Team Review Subcommittee](#) consists of the following individuals:

- National Team Review Subcommittee Chair
- Vice President Olympic International
- Chief of Sport

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- Two (2) Athlete Representatives as designated by the Chief of Sport who are unaffiliated with any of the athletes in contention, who meet the requirements of Section 7.06 A of the USAAS Code and shall be retired from competition.
- One (1) person selected by the Vice President Olympic International who exhibits knowledge of the sport, knowledge of the international scene in elite artistic swimming, and demonstrates a fair and unbiased disposition.

SECTION 6: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of all mandatory training and/or competition for athletes who are nominated to the Team.

All athletes nominated to the 2025 World Championships must train full-time at the National Training Center by May 12.

- All nominated athletes must either be training full-time at the National Training Center until the completion of the event season or be approved to postpone full-time training at the National Training Center by participating in their collegiate artistic swimming program.

While waivers for mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, all athletes nominated to the 2025 World Championship Team (including Duet) should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work and other obligations in advance. Waivers will primarily be granted for injury or other similar incapacity or for a personal/family emergency.

All requests for waivers must be presented to the Chief of Sport (or designee) in writing in advance of all mandatory training. Following receipt, the National Team Review Subcommittee (Section 5.4 (B)) will review the request and determine whether to approve the waiver request. All approved waivers must be in writing and signed by the Chief of Sport (or designee) to be valid.

SECTION 7: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

USAAS will nominate the Team, including any replacements/alternates, approximately one (1) month prior to competition (TBD) at the 2025 World Championships.

SECTION 8: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

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

- i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the USAAS Chief Executive Officer requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
- ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USAAS provides certification that the

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Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they may be removed from the Team.

- iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
- iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the USAAS Code of Conduct:
<https://www.usaartisticswim.org/trials-openings-and-judges>
- v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed USAAS Athlete Agreement.
- vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 2 of these selection procedures.
- vii. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated WADA, IF, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, and USAAS SafeSport policies ((<https://www.usaartisticswim.org/rule-book>, Appendix Q), as applicable.

SECTION 9: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- A) Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the LOC:

Team:

Should an athlete vacancy occur, the next highest ranked athlete may be invited to join the team. In deciding whether a replacement will be invited to join the team, the decision will be based on the 5.2 Discretionary Criteria. Consideration will also be given to the position or role of the athlete being replaced, such as flyer or pusher. The Chief of Sport (or designee) will make the final decision on whether to fill the position. The designated athlete representative will also oversee the decision process.

Duet:

Should an athlete vacancy occur, the alternate will be nominated and the next highest ranking duet squad member will assume the alternate position. The designated athlete representative will also oversee the decision process.

- B) All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2 .

SECTION 10: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- A) Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name to the LOC, if allowed under AQUA's

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regulations on replacements, USAAS will follow the process outlined above in Section 9.

B) All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

SECTION 11: RIGHT TO A HEARING

An athlete who is removed from the Team has the right to a hearing per the USAAS complaint procedures <https://www.usaartisticwim.org/rule-book>.

SECTION 12: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the World Championships:

- [USAAS Athlete Code of Conduct](#)
- The 2025-2026 Senior National Team Agreement is required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to any international competition throughout the course of the quad.

SECTION 13: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on IF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USAAS.

However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. If any force of nature, pandemic, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions.

SECTION 14: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Evaluators, Assessors, selection committee, and National Team Review Subcommittee members that are involved in the selection process are required to sign and are subject to the USAAS Conflict of Interest Policy, Appendix U of the [USAAS Rulebook](#).

SECTION 15: ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

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PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SECTION 16: GRIEVANCES

The USAAS Grievance Procedures can be found here (see Appendix K):

<https://www.usaartisticswim.org/rule-book>

SECTION 17: NON-RETALIATION

The USOPC and USAAS have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or USAAS staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

- o Individuals may report concerns to the USAAS by following the USAAS Whistleblower Policy located here (see Appendix S): <https://www.usaartisticswim.org/rule-book>
- o Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.
- o Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 18: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USAAS will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process as required under the USAAS Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the closing ceremony of the 2025 World Championship, whichever is longer.

SECTION 19: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Adam Andrasko	Chief Executive Officer
Lara Teixeira	Chief of Sport
Tammy McGregor	Senior Head Coach

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Mariya Koroleva Lloyd	Team USA AC Athlete Representative (10-Year Athlete)
	USAAS AEC Athlete Representative (or designee)

The following individual approved these selection procedures and through their signature, certify that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by the IF. The following individual further certifies that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Artistic Swimming.

POSITION	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USAAS Chief Executive Officer	Adam Andrasko		

The following individual affirms that they have read and understand the selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	Mariya Koroleva		

* If the Team USA AC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate Team USA AC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USAAS, they may submit those reasons in writing to their Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected Team USA AC Representative, the USAAS must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

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APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AAC – Athletes’ Advisory Council

AC – Athletes' Commission

Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

APC – Americas Paralympic Committee

CAS – Court of Arbitration for Sport

Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport

CF – Continental Federation

IMS – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

IOC – International Olympic Committee

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

IF – International Federation

LOC – Local Organizing Committee

NGB – National Governing Body

NOC – National Olympic Committee

NPC – National Paralympic Committee

OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. The OCOG refers to the Organizing Committee of the Paralympic Games as well.

PAG – Pan American Games

Panam Sports or PASO – Pan American Sports Organization

PPAG – Parapan American Games

PSO – Paralympic Sport Organization

TEAM USA AC – Team USA Athletes’ Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

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APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

Contingency means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

Delegation Event means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

Force Majeure means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

Grievance Procedures means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

Jurisdiction means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

Nominated means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the Selection Committee to the NGB.

Protected Competition means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

Qualifying Competition means either of the following:

- **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

Selected means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the NGB to the LOC at the final submission date, as determined by the LOC.

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APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

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The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit www.safesporthelpline.org.

TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC) *(Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)*

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission

TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at psychservices@usopc.org, or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit <https://www.usopc.org/mental-health> for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at go.teamusa.org/referrals to get connected.

USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)

For Protected Competitions, USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).

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USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.