



USA TEAM HANDBALL

Cadet U16 Women’s National Team (CWNT) Selection Procedures

**NACHC Cadet Women’s Continental Championships | June 29 – July 5, 2026¹
(Mexico City, Mexico)**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline the official selection procedures for the USA Team Handball (USATH) Cadet Women’s National Team (JWNT) that will compete in the 2026 NACHC Continental Championships and IHF U16 Women’s World Championship Qualifier, scheduled for June 29 through July 5, 2026, at the Olympic Training Center in Mexico City, Mexico.

These procedures are written in accordance with the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Athlete Selection Procedures requirements and the governance standards of USA Team Handball as the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of Team Handball in the United States.

This document is intended to ensure that the athlete selection process is fair, transparent, objective, and compliant with USOPC and USATH policies.

2. AUTHORITY

USA Team Handball is recognized by the USOPC as the National Governing Body for the sport of Team Handball in the United States. USA Team Handball has the authority to establish, implement, and enforce selection procedures for all national teams representing the United States in international competition.

Final approval of these Selection Procedures is subject to review and approval by USA Team Handball and the USOPC.

¹ The initially-reviewed version of these Procedures left uncertain the exact event dates and was updated here upon confirmation from the NACHC on 4/30/2026



3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for selection to the Cadet Women’s National Team for the 2026 NACHC Cadet Women’s Continental Championships, athletes must:

- Meet the age eligibility requirements established by the International Handball Federation (IHF) for the Cadet category
 - **IHF/NACHC Cadet Age Eligibility:** Athletes must be born in **2010 or 2011 AND before October 21, 2011²**, in accordance with International Handball Federation (IHF) Cadet competition regulations for the 2026 competition year.
- Be a U.S. citizen and eligible to represent the United States in international competition under IHF regulations
- Hold a valid U.S. passport or be able to obtain one prior to international travel
- Be a current member in good standing of USA Team Handball
- Be compliant with all USOPC, USATH, and SafeSport policies
- Be medically cleared for high-performance training and international competition

4. SELECTION PROCESS TIMELINE

- **Selection Process Opens:** Upon publication of these procedures
- **Application and Video Submission Deadline:** May 15, 2026
- **Selection Period:** March 16 – May 18, 2026
- **Date of Nomination:** On or about May 18, 2026, not later than June 1, 2026

USA Team Handball reserves the right to adjust dates due to unforeseen circumstances, provided that any changes are communicated promptly and transparently.

5. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (ALL APPLICANTS)

All athletes seeking selection to the Cadet Women’s National Team must submit the required application materials by **May 15, 2026**. Any such requirements, including registration in the Sport:80 Membership platform, will be further outlined in the Sport:80 registration information.

² Age clarification on official age range from North American and Caribbean Handball Federation received after initial drafting and review, and inserted here 4/30/2026.



6. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL VIDEO REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Athletes Without Youth or Junior National Team Participation in the Last Six (6) Months

As this is the inaugural selection of a US Women's Cadet National Team, applicants who have **NOT** participated in a USA Youth or Junior National Team event, camp, or competition within the last six months must also submit:

- A video demonstrating:
 - **Five (5) defensive actions** (e.g., positioning, footwork, contact management, lateral movement, recovery)
 - **Five (5) offensive actions** (e.g., passing, shooting, movement without the ball, attacking decision-making)

These videos should demonstrate technical execution, tactical understanding, and game-relevant movement patterns.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

Athlete selection will be based on a holistic evaluation that may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical performance metrics (running endurance and sprint speed)
- Technical and tactical skill execution
- Positional needs and roster balance
- Previous performance in USA Team Handball programs (if applicable)
- Training age, developmental potential, and readiness for international competition
- Coachability, professionalism, and adherence to team standards

No single criterion guarantees selection. Please submit all materials to

WNTSELECTIONS@HANDBALLUSA.ORG.

8. SELECTION COMMITTEE AND AUTHORITY

8.1 Selection Committee Composition

The Cadet Women's National Team Selection Committee will consist of the following roles:

- Head Coach, Cadet Women's National Team (Chair)



- Assistant Coach(es), Cadet Women’s National Team
- Athlete Representative, selected in accordance with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act and USA Team Handball Athlete Representation policies

USA Team Handball may appoint additional non-voting advisors as deemed necessary.

8.2 Date of Nomination

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the NACHC on or before **June 1, 2026**.

9. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

The CWNT Coaching Staff reserves the right to use discretionary selection to ensure the most competitive team is selected for the NACHC Cadet Women’s Continental Championships.

Discretionary selections may consider factors including, but not limited to:

- Positional depth
- Team chemistry
- Tactical needs
- Injury status and medical considerations

In selecting athletes, the Selection Committee will consider information, specifically observation and statistical evaluation, of both objective and discretionary nature, that pertains to the criteria listed herein. 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.

10. INJURY, ILLNESS, MEDICAL CLEARANCE, AND REPLACEMENT POLICY

10.1 Medical Clearance and Return-to-Play

All selected athletes must be medically cleared to participate in high-performance training and international competition.

In cases where an athlete is returning from injury or illness, USA Team Handball may require:



- Written medical clearance from a licensed healthcare provider
- Additional evaluation or monitoring by USA Team Handball medical or performance staff

Failure to obtain or maintain medical clearance may result in removal from the roster or replacement.

10.2 Replacement Policy

USA Team Handball reserves the right to replace an athlete who becomes injured, ill, or otherwise withdraws or is unable to compete prior to or during the event, in accordance with NACHC regulations and USATH policies.

11. APPEALS AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS

Athletes may appeal selection decisions in accordance with the USA Team Handball Athlete Grievance Procedures, as recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

Appeals must be submitted in writing within the timelines and procedures outlined in the USA Team Handball Athlete Grievance Policy. Information regarding the grievance process can be obtained through USA Team Handball.

USA Team Handball Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:
<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-team-handball/about/governance/corporate-documents>

12. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee must comply with USA Team Handball and USOPC Conflict of Interest policies.

Any selector with an actual or perceived conflict of interest must disclose the conflict and recuse themselves from deliberations and decision-making related to the affected athlete(s).

13. ANTI-DOPING COMPLIANCE

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.



Member, United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee

14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to 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 the NGB or USOPC shall take or threaten action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

15. APPROVAL AND SIGNATURES

These Selection Procedures were developed, reviewed and approved by USA Team Handball in accordance with its authority as the National Governing Body for the sport of Team Handball in the United States.

Signed by: Michael King
 Sign: D2976610222B4A0...
 Name: Michael King Title: _____
CEO
 Date: _____ 4/23/2026

Signed by: [Signature]
 Sign: DB443A9F2E38493...
 Name: Pauline Marangoni
 Title: CWNT Head Coach
 Date: _____ 4/29/2026

DocuSigned by: Andrew Donlin
 Sign: D1054ESC733640F...
 Name: Andrew Donlin
 Title: Team USA AC Representative
 Date: _____ 4/29/2026