

USA FENCING
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES
October 18, 2023
Amendment #1: June 12, 2024

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2024 Paralympic Games team (the Team):

1.1.0. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2024 Paralympic Games (the Games).

1.1.1. Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC), for participation:

Any competitor in the Paralympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1).

1.1.2. Minimum International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) standards for participation (if any):

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing information for Paris 2024 Paralympic Qualification can be found [HERE](#).

The IPC official Paris 2024 Paralympic Qualification regulations can be found [HERE](#).

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athletes must:

- Have competed in at least three (3) international sanctioned IWAS Wheelchair Fencing competitions between 1 October 2022 until 31 May 2024; and
- Be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date after 31 December 2024.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- Athlete must be a current member of USA Fencing.
- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

1.2. Tryout Events:

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

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing competitions between 1 October 2022 and 31 May 2024 including:

- World Cups, Satellite Competitions
- 2023 World Championships
- 2022/23 and 2024 Zonal Championships

All event dates and locations are made available on IWAS's competition calendar via their website: <https://wheelchair-fencing.org/competitions/upcoming/>

1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1.:

- IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cups, Satellite Competitions, and Zonal Championships generally are open entry and are coordinated through the National Federation (USA Fencing). In order to be entered, athletes must:
 - Be a current member of USA Fencing
 - Meet IWAS Classification eligibility requirements
 - In the event that IWAS announces entry restrictions to World Cups, Satellite Competitions, and/or Zonal Championships, USA Fencing will follow the Parafencing Selection Criteria outlined in the USA

Fencing Athlete Handbook posted online:

<https://www.usafencing.org/athlete-handbook>

- IWAS Wheelchair Fencing 2023 World Championships entries are restricted by IWAS. Athlete nominations are conducted via the Parafencing Selection Criteria outlined in the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook posted online: <https://www.usafencing.org/athlete-handbook>

- 1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

Allocation of Qualification Slots:

The qualification slot is allocated to the individual athlete, not to the National Paralympic Committee (USOPC/Team USA).

In case of a Bipartite Commission Invitation the qualification slot is also allocated to the individual athlete, not to the NPC.

Maximum Quota Allocation Per NPC:

An NPC can be allocated no more than six (6) male and six (6) female qualification slots.

Maximum Entry Per NPC:

An NPC can enter a maximum of two (2) eligible athlete per Individual event.

Athletes qualifying through Individual Paralympic Ranking Lists must enter the event from which they have obtained their slot and will be allowed to enter any other individual event where they are ranked in the top-30 on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic Ranking List closing 31 May 2024. If the maximum number of entries is exceeded, priority will be given to the highest ranked athletes.

Athletes who have obtained their slot through the Team Athlete allocation method will be allowed to enter in the individual event(s) in the same weapon(s) of the team event(s) they are competing in, and will be allowed to enter any other individual event where they are ranked in the top-30 on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic Ranking List closing 31 May 2024. If the maximum number of entries is exceeded, priority will be given to the highest ranked athletes.

An NPC can enter a maximum of one (1) team in each of the Team events. Only the host country and teams ranked in the top-14 on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Ranking List closing 31 May 2024 for the respective event may be considered for entry. The highest ranked team from each of the three (3) regions in each of the team medal events is granted an entry if they are ranked in the top-14 on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Ranking List closing 31 May 2024.

Qualification System:

Method	Qualification	Total
Individual Paralympic Ranking List Allocation by Region	<p>The top-ranked male and female athletes from each region (Europe, America/Africa, Asia/Oceania) in each individual medal event on the Individual Paralympic Ranking list closing on 31 May 2024 obtain one (1) qualification slot.</p> <p>Only athletes ranked in the top-30 will be considered for this allocation. If a region has no athlete in the top-30 of a particular Ranking, this slot is given to the next highest ranked athlete (not yet qualified) regardless of region.</p>	<p>18 male athletes</p> <p>18 female athletes</p>
Individual Paralympic Ranking List Allocation	<p>The three (3) highest ranked athletes (not yet qualified) in each individual medal event on the Individual Paralympic Ranking List closing on 31 May 2024 obtain one (1) qualification slot, up to a maximum of two (2) slots per NPC in each medal event (including any slot obtained from the method above).</p> <p>If an NPC would achieve more slots than the maximum quota per NPC, then slots will be allocated to the athletes with the highest ranking position. If two or more athletes have equal ranking positions, slots will be allocated to athlete(s) with the highest ranking points. If two or</p>	<p>18 male athletes</p> <p>18 female athletes</p>

	more athletes have equal ranking positions and points, slots will be allocated to athlete(s) with the best placement at the 2023 World Championships.	
Host Country Allocation	<p>The host country directly qualifies three (3) eligible male athletes and three (3) eligible female athletes. These athletes must be ranked highest among all host country athletes on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic World Ranking List closing 31 May 2024.</p> <p>Should the host country obtain any qualification slots via any of the allocation methods above, the reserve number of host country slots will be reduced accordingly, and the respective slots will be allocated via the Team Athlete Allocation method (see below).</p>	
Team Athlete Allocation	<p>After allocation of all individual slots and in order to secure the viability of the Team Medal Events, eight (8) eligible male and eight (8) eligible female athletes will be allocated one (1) slot each. These slots will be allocated at the discretion of IWAS to eligible athletes who can complete a team together with other athletes from the same NPC.</p> <p>If event viability has been secured, IWAS may choose not to allocate some or all of these slots. Any unused Team Athlete Allocation slot(s) will be allocated via the Bipartite Commission Invitation allocation method.</p>	<p>8 male athletes</p> <p>8 female athletes</p>
Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation	One (1) male and one (1) female athlete will be considered by IPC and IWAS for Bipartite Commission Invitation slots.	1 male athlete

	To be considered for a Bipartite slot, NPCs must submit an official application in writing to IWAS on 21 June 2024	1 female athlete
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Individual Paralympic Ranking List:

For the “*Individual Paralympic Ranking Lists*” the following results from the official IWAS Wheelchair Fencing competition during the qualification period (1 October 2022 until 31 May 2024) will count for total ranking points:

- Results from World Championships (2023)
- Best result out of the 2 Zonal Championships (2022/2023 and 2024)
 - For the Americas Region, these Zonal Championships are:
 - 2022 Wheelchair Fencing Americas Championship, October 22nd – 25th, 2022 in Sao Paulo, Brazil
 - 2024 Wheelchair Fencing Americas Zonals, May 8th – 12th, 2024 in San Jose, Costa Rica
- Best six (6) results from the World Cups and Satellite Competitions in the qualification period – (max. one (1) Satellite Competition can be included)

Further IWAS Regulations:

Teams will be composed of 3 or 4 athletes (all team athletes need to have a qualification slot, independent of the weapon). Athletes with team athlete allocation slots have to participate in the team events.

An athlete can compete in up to three (3) individual weapons at the 2024 Paralympic Games (if ranked in the top-30) in the respective individual event) and can also be selected for participation in the two (2) team events.

If two (2) or more athletes have the same total number of points in the ranking, the better ranking position will be given to the athlete with:

- a) better result at the World Championships (priority 1)
- b) best World Cup result (priority 2)

If an athlete could be selected for qualification slots through ranking position in two (2) or three (3) “*Individual Paralympic Ranking Lists*”, only the best position in these rankings will be selected for allocation of the slot. If positions in “*Individual Paralympic Ranking Lists*” are the same, priority will be given to the higher number of total points (priority 1) or the better result of World

Championships (priority 2). If this is still the same, IWAS will decide on the “*Individual Paralympic Ranking List*” for selection.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

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

For Team events, team athlete slot allocations are at the discretion of IWAS. IWAS will determine the list of eligible athletes who can complete as a team together with other athletes from the same NPC who qualified by name. Team athlete slot allocations will be allocated by IWAS on 7 June 2024. The USA Fencing Discretionary Selection Committee will review all eligible athletes provided in the IWAS team athlete slot allocation(s) and determine, by majority vote, who is nominated for the available slot(s). NPC’s must submit entry confirmation by 21 June 2024.

For Bipartite applications, the USA Fencing ~~Bipartite~~ Discretionary Selection Committee may, by majority vote, nominate up to one (1) male and one (1) female athlete for Bipartite slot applications. USA Fencing may, but is not required to, submit an application for a Bipartite slot depending on whether, as determined by the USA Fencing ~~Bipartite~~ Discretionary Selection Committee, there are athletes who meet the discretionary criteria outlined in Section 2.2 below. Should USA Fencing submit an application for Bipartite Slots, athletes submitted for an application will be announced via email to eligible and actively competing USA Fencing athletes within the parafencing program.

One (1) male and one (1) female athlete per NPC will be considered by IPC and IWAS for Bipartite Commission Invitation slots. To be considered for a Bipartite slot, NPCs must submit an official application in writing to IWAS by 21 June 2024.

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

2.2.1. Team Qualification Selection:

The following factors, listed below in no particular order, may be considered by the USA Fencing Discretionary Selection Committee to nominate athletes for a team event:

- Whether the athlete is likely to contribute to a team medal based on their individual and team performance results at IWAS sanctioned events during the Paris 2024 qualification period.
 - a) The athlete’s strength in each weapon that comprise the qualified teams.
 - b) The athlete’s ability to complement the athletes who have qualified by name for the team event.

- Classification eligibility for a competitive team composition.
- The athlete's ranking position on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic Ranking List as of 31 May 2024.
- The athlete's ability to participate in the individual event(s) based on IWAS eligibility criteria for the 2024 Paralympic Games.

2.2.2. Bipartite Slot Applications:

The following factors, listed below in no particular order, will be considered by the USA Fencing ~~Bipartite~~ Discretionary Selection Committee when determining whether USA Fencing athletes will be nominated for Bipartite Commission Invitation slots:

- The athlete(s) experienced an injury or illness or switched weapons, which impeded maximal performance during the 2024 Paralympic Games qualification period.
- The athlete is deemed capable of winning a medal at the Games, based on previous international results during the 2024 Paralympic Games qualification period.
- The athlete, despite age or time in the sport, has shown recent positive results at international competitions during the 2024 Paralympic Games qualification period.

2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, or other decisions/recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

USA Fencing ~~Bipartite~~ Discretionary Selection Committee:

1. Parafencing National Coach
 - If conflicted, a National Coach from another weapon will serve.
2. USA Fencing Chief of Sport Performance
3. A non-conflicted retired Paralympian
4. Chair of the USA Fencing Athlete Council.
 - If the Chair is currently competing in the weapon and gender of the proposed replacement, a non-conflicted member of the Athlete Council will replace them. The member will be chosen by a majority vote of the Athlete Council. An ex-officio member shall be eligible to serve.
5. A non-conflicted USA Fencing representative to the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council.

- If this is not possible, a second member of the USA Fencing Athlete Council will be selected as described in number 4 above.

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 USA Fencing's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USA Fencing's ethics committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USA Fencing's ethics committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse him/herself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USA Fencing's ethics committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse him/herself from voting, the ethics committee may still determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USA Fencing's ethics committee (<https://www.usafencing.org/fencesafe-report>). Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USA Fencing selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to submitting athlete entries by name to the USOPC, USA FENCING has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Fencing CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Fencing. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Fencing, his/her injury will be assumed to be debilitating and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the USA Fencing's Code of Conduct:
<https://www.usafencing.org/athlete-handbook>
- 3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.1.6. Removal by the IPC/IWAS of the event in which the athlete qualified for the 2024 Paralympic Games
- 3.1.7. Change in the athlete's sport class(es) following team selection, such that:
 - 3.1.7.1. the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team; and/or
 - 3.1.7.2. the athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IPC/IWAS.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per [USA Fencing's Bylaws](#) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA FENCING Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply, contained in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms. The USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and made available during the Games registration process; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the Delegation Terms. See "Delegation Events" at <https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Dispute-Resolution> for more information.
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, WADA, IWAS, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol,

policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USA Fencing'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:

Any qualification slots allocated and not used will be returned IWAS to be reallocated via the IWAS Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method.

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

Any qualification slots allocated and not used will be returned IWAS to be reallocated via the IWAS Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Fencing will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Delegation Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Paralympic, Games (include as attachments or provide links):

N/A

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USA Fencing in the following public location(s):

7.1. USA Fencing Web site: www.usafencing.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

July 1, 2024

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

N/A

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures **as of October 18th, 2023:**

- Lauryn DeLuca, USA Fencing Athlete Council
- Rick Swauger, USA Fencing Athlete Council
- Kate Reisinger, Chief of Sport Performance, USA Fencing
- Beth Mahr, Parafencing Manager, USA Fencing
- Julio Diaz, Parafencing National Team Coach, USA Fencing

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating the 1st Amendment to these Selection Procedures as of June 10th, 2024:

- Lauryn DeLuca, USA Fencing Athlete Council
- Rick Swauger, USA Fencing Athlete Council
- Kate Reisinger, Chief of Sport Performance, USA Fencing
- Beth Mahr, Parafencing Manager, USA Fencing

- Eric Soyka, Parafencing National Team Coach, USA Fencing

12. USA FENCING BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Fencing Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.usafencing.org/by-laws>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IPC and/or IWAS rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC and/or IWAS rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Fencing. 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, 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, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

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 USA FENCING.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000


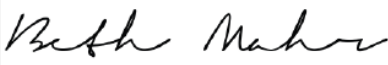

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: <https://www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds>

15. USA FENCING SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by IWAS and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Fencing.

Signatures certifying the original version of USA Fencing's Athlete Selection Procedures as of October 18th, 2023:

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Fencing President or CEO/Executive Director	Phil Andrews		11/04/2023
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Beth Mahr		11/06/2023
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Lauryn DeLuca		11/30/2023

Signatures certifying the 1st Amendment to USA Fencing's Athlete Selection Procedures as of June 12th, 2024:

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Fencing President or CEO/Executive Director	Phil Andrews		06/11/2024
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Eric Soyka		06/12/2024
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Lauryn DeLuca		06/12/2024

* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the USA Fencing, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

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

To whom it may concern,

I hereby delegate my authority as Athlete Advisory Council Representative to the alternate, Lauryn Deluca, in regards to the review and approval of the Wheelchair Fencing Athlete Selection Procedures for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Lauryn is more familiar with Paralympic policies and procedures and will be a great representative to review and approve these procedures.

Sincerely,

Katharine Holmes
USA Fencing Athlete Council Chair
USOPC Athlete Advisory Council Representative

Katharine Holmes