

USA WATER SKI & WAKE SPORTS  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2025 JUNIOR PAN AM GAMES  
WATER SKI

*Effective December 16, 2024*

***Revision 1: Notice of Interest Deadline (February 15, 2025), Timely Completion of USOPC Documents and Submissions***

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2025 Junior Pan American Games (the “Games”) Water Ski Team (the “Team”):

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

The athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

The athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum Pan American Sports Organization (Panam Sports) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Junior Pan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) 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 Panam Sports Constitution (Article 34.4-7).

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

All Team athletes participating in the 2025 Games must be born in 2004 or later (athletes must not be older than 21 years old in 2025).

All athletes must sign and submit the Athlete Eligibility Condition Form.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be an active member of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-WSWS), whereas all membership dues have been paid to USA-

WSWS at the time of nomination and continuing through the Games.

- Athletes must not have an active suspension and/or sanction that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by the 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](#).
- Minor athletes who are selected for the Team may be required to travel with, and be accompanied by, a parent or guardian at the Games.
- Partial funding may be available for team members, but all athletes are responsible for all unfunded costs.

## 1.2. Evaluation Events:

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

The Team will be nominated utilizing scores achieved in International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (IWWF) – sanctioned Ranking List (Class L) or World Record (Class R) Tournaments (see IWWF Rule 25 in the current publication of the IWWF World Waterski Rulebook at <https://iwwf.sport/disciplines/waterskiing/>), based on performances between and inclusive of May 24, 2024 through May 24, 2025 as reported to IWWF as of May 25, 2025 at 11:59 PM (PDT) (“Qualifying Scores”).

A list of Eligible Tournaments to be used as a part of the nomination process can be found on the USA-WSWS website (at [https://www.usawaterski.org/rankings/view-tournaments\\_usa.asp?sl=on&tr=on&ju=on](https://www.usawaterski.org/rankings/view-tournaments_usa.asp?sl=on&tr=on&ju=on)) and the IWWF website (see IWWF World Calendar at <https://ems.iwwf.sport/>).

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

The majority of Eligible Tournaments are open events. However, some tournaments are invitation only, and each tournament’s selection criteria may

either be posted on the tournament’s website or are available from the sponsoring organization. The “invitation only” tournaments include:

Moomba Masters (contact: [waterskivic@bigpond.com](mailto:waterskivic@bigpond.com))  
March 6-10, 2025

U.S. Masters (contact: [RBischoff@nautique.com](mailto:RBischoff@nautique.com))  
May 23-25, 2025

Other invitational tournaments may also be scheduled (see above links for tournament schedules). Athletes should directly contact the sponsors of those tournaments to determine the criteria for receiving an invitation or qualification.

All Eligible Tournaments are used to calculate the IWWF Dynamic World Ranking List, which is continuously updated (see: <http://www.iwsftournament.com/homologation/idserverranking.htm>). Data from the IWWF Dynamic World Ranking List for age-eligible athletes, as published as of May 25, 2025 at 11:59 PM (PDT), filtered to include only all skiers from the IWWF Pan American Region, will be used to select the Team (the “Ranking List”).

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

The Games will consist of individual water ski events (slalom, tricks, and jump), plus a separate overall competition (male and female for all events, including overall). Based on results achieved at the 2024 Pan American Water Ski Championship on October 6-12, 2024, the Team will be comprised of four (4) members. The Team must include both male and female athletes (2/2, or 3/1 gender allocation).

Additionally, for Teams comprised of four (4) athletes:

- The Team must have competitors representing both genders and each gender must have one competitor in each event.
- No more than one (1) competitor may compete in only a single event (i.e., a single event specialist); and
- At least one (1) competitor must compete in the slalom, trick and jump events (i.e., a three event competitor).
- Only three skiers per gender and from the same country may participate in the preliminary rounds.
- Only two skiers per gender and from the same country may participate in the finals.

### 1.3.1 Notice of Interest

Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must notify USA-WSWS of their interest to be considered for the Team on or before **February 16, 2025**. Athlete notices of interest should be filed online at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBl1wHmhxQWvDhHnzYPEC3C3gmUx-n3ggzMOp8lwrhdx0X\\_g/viewform?pli=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBl1wHmhxQWvDhHnzYPEC3C3gmUx-n3ggzMOp8lwrhdx0X_g/viewform?pli=1). USA-WSWS will contact skiers who may qualify to be named to the Team to ensure they timely file a Notice of Interest. **All athletes interested in being considered for the team must also timely complete all documents and submissions required by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.**

### 1.3.2 Preliminary Pool

Athletes who are in the top five (5) Ranking List for each of the events (slalom, trick, jump, and overall), and who have submitted a timely Notice of Interest, will be included in a Preliminary Pool of eligible athletes.

### 1.3.3 Team Selection

All athletes in the Preliminary Pool will first be considered for nomination to the Team through discretionary criteria (see Section 2).

In the event the nomination process of athletes from the initial Preliminary Pool does not result in the selection of both male and female athletes, the AWSA IAC will enlarge the Preliminary Pool (including the solicitation of interest from athletes who did not previously file a timely Notice of Interest) as to the unrepresented gender to determine which U.S. athlete from that gender has the best medal potential for any event, using the discretionary criteria (see Section 2) for predicting the athlete's medal potential. The athlete(s) identified through this process will be nominated to the Team.

## 2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

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

The Team will be nominated by the [USA-WSWS' American Water Ski Association International Activities Committee](#) ("AWSA IAC"), based on the anticipated medal count that would result from different combinations of potential athletes and would meet the Team requirements set forth in Section 1.3. This includes both male and female athletes, with the goal of being able to pick a Team to win (in priority order):

- The greatest number of gold medals;
- The greatest number of total medals (with priority being given to potential gold, versus silver, versus bronze medals).

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

In nominating the Team, the following criteria will be considered and utilized:

- a.) The IAC will first review Ranking Lists, as published most recently before the IAC's team nomination meeting, for each event (the events being slalom, tricks, jump and overall).
- b.) The highest ranked skiers on the Ranking List in each event will be compared to other eligible U.S. athletes, and to other non-U.S. skiers on the Ranking List likely to compete in that event at the Games to predict each athlete's scores (and medal potential) at the Games. Skiers with higher Ranking List positions will be presumed to have a greater medal potential than skiers with lower Ranking List positions.
- c.) Additionally, athletes with higher Qualifying Scores versus the scores of anticipated (with consideration being given such as for non-U.S. competitors who are injured and not anticipated to compete, etc.) non-U.S. competitors in the event (a predicted "Performance Differential" comparing an athlete's Qualifying Scores with the Qualifying Scores of the athlete's likely non-U.S. competitors) will be given priority over lower ranked athletes.
- d.) Athletes who are ranked in two or more events, and whose Ranking List scores indicate a medal potential in two or more events, will be given priority over athletes with a medal potential in only one event, considering both the athlete's ranking in each of the events and his/her predicted "Performance Differential in each of the events).
- e.) This analysis shall include both male and female athletes, to ensure representation of both genders on the Team.

#### Athletes with Substantially Equivalent Qualifications

In the event two (2) or more athletes have substantially equivalent qualifications based on the Team nomination process described above, the AWSA IAC will consider each athlete's consistency in achieving high scores (as demonstrated through each athletes' Qualifying Scores"), at highly competitive events (such as the 2024 Under 17 World Championships, the Junior U.S. Open, or the U.S. National Championships, etc.) occurring during the "Qualifying Scores" period (see Section 1.2.1, above).

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

The AWSA IAC is responsible for administering these selection procedures, including any discretionary selections. See <https://www.usawaterski.org/about-us/committee-rosters>

- 2.4 Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All members of the AWSA IAC and all individuals involved in the development of these selection procedures (Section 11) must comply with USA-WSWS' conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a [disclosure form](#) for review by the USA-WSWS Ethics Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the AWSA IAC who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to USA-WSWS' 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, USA-WSWS' 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 coach, may, if requested by the AWSA IAC, 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-WSWS' Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously to [EthicsChair@usawaterski.org](mailto:EthicsChair@usawaterski.org). 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-WSWS AWSA IAC committee appointment process.

### 3 REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1 Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, USA-WSWS has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written communication to USA WSWS' CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2 Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA-WSWS. If an athlete refuses verification of their injury or illness by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA-WSWS, their injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling 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 USA-WSWS' U.S. Team Agreement and Code of Conduct. See Team Documents at <https://www.usawaterski.org/athletes-resources> .

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA-WSWS' Bylaws. See USA-WSWS Bylaws, Article IX at <https://www.usawaterski.org/usa-wsww-governance> and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2 Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA-WSWS Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms made available prior to the respective Games; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures can be found at: <https://www.usopc.org/grievance-and-dispute-resolution> .
- 3.3 An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of Panam Sports, WADA, IWWF, 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-WSWS' 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:

Replacement athletes will be nominated using the same process as described in Section 1. In applying the process described in Section 1, the Committee will use the discretionary criteria specified in Section 2.

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

If allowed, replacement athletes will be nominated using the same process as described above in Section 4.1.1.

## **5 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USA-WSWS will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six (6) months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## **6 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Team:

USA-WSWS' U.S. Team Agreement and Code of Conduct. See Team Documents at <https://www.usawaterski.org/usa-wswn-governance>

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

These Procedures will be posted/published by USA-WSWS in the following public location(s):

7.1 USA-WSWS Web site: Team Selection & Independent Athlete Qualifications & Procedures (Games-specific procedures will published)  
<https://www.usawaterski.org/athletes-resources>

7.2 Other:

The USA-WSWS website link (above) will be provided in *The Water Skier*, USA-WSWS' official member publication.

## **8 DATE OF NOMINATION**

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before June 16, 2025.

## **9 MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

N/A

## **10 ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all Panam Sports, WADA, IWWF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-



Competition Testing as required by the Panam Sports, WADA, IWWF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

## **11 DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Jeffrey Smith, Chair of AWSA IAC

AWSA IAC Committee Members: see <https://www.usawaterski.org/about-us/committee-rosters>

Kevin Michael, USA-WSWS Executive Director

## **12 USA-WSWS BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USA-WSWS Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.usawaterski.org/usa-wsww-governance>

## **13 INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on Panam Sports and IWWF Pan Am Confederation rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in Panam Sports and/or IWWF Pan Am Confederation rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA-WSWS. 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 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](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [usathlete.org](http://usathlete.org)

## **15 NGB SIGNATURES**

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IWWF Pan Am Confederation 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-WSWS.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA-WSWS Executive Director	Kevin Michael	<i>/s/ Kevin Michael</i>	12/16/24
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Jeffrey Smith, AWSA IAC Chair	<i>/s/ Jeffrey Smith</i>	12/20/24

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

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	Alex Lauretano	<i>/s/ Alex Lauretano</i>	12/16/20

\* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate 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 the NGB, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

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