American Water Ski Association
2026 U21 Pan Am Championships Team
QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Team Description.

A four member team will be chosen to compete at the 2026 U21 Division Pan Am Championships to be held on October 6-10, 2026 in Asuncion, Paraguay. The team will be selected on approximately July 27, 2026.

A. Eligibility

Eligibility for selection to the U.S. U21 Pan Am Team shall be:

A. U.S. citizen and Passport holder.
B. Active member of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-WSWS) in good standing.
C. Age qualification will be based on each athlete's "2026 Age," as defined by IWWF Rules 2.03 and 17.01.

B. Notice of Interest Requirements and procedures

To be considered for a position on this team, **ALL ATHLETES MUST FULLY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STEPS BY JUNE 27, 2026:**

1. **Notice of Interest to be selected as a member of the U.S. U21 Pan Am Team, (athletes must indicate the event(s) they are interested in competing in) must be submitted.**
2. **These notice forms are online at: https://forms.gle/JGgNp7xZ4xZmuBXh8.**
3. The parent/guardian of all minor athletes **must acknowledge and agree to the USA-WSWS Code of Conduct and Athlete Agreement,** on behalf of the minor athlete. **USA-WSWS' SafeSport Policy must also be complied with.** Those documents are available for review online at USA-WSWS's website.
4. **Full payment of all entry and team fees must be received by the team manager, not later than the deadline for submitting a Notice of Interest.** Entry and team fees will be refunded for athletes not selected for the team.
5. All completed athlete Notices of Interest will be acknowledged.
6. Notices of Interest will not be considered as received unless the Notice of Interest form has been completed.
7. **Primary consideration will be given to those individuals who have completed this process on a timely basis, but the IAC reserves the right to consider other individuals for the team.**
8. **Skiers (and their parents, as to all minor athletes) are responsible for all costs of attending and participating in this tournament, except to the extent that any team funding (if any) is available.**
9. Questions regarding this process should be addressed to IAC members Kerri Lee (kleeski@hotmail.com) or Lauren Morgan (Lauren.a.morgan@Dartmouth.edu).

C. Team Selection Considerations

The AWSA International Activities Committee (IAC) is tasked with the responsibility of selecting athletes to participate on the Water Ski Teams that will represent the United States in International

Competitions. The committee's primary goal in this process is to select teams that will have the greatest opportunity to win each of the international competitions. In this selection process, there are numerous considerations that the committee will utilize in the effort to select the best combination of athletes for each tournament, with the ultimate goal to win the event. These elements include, but are not limited to:

1. Numerical Division of Male / Female athletes to make up the team;
2. Numerical scores from selected tournaments that precede the event and are close enough in time to the event to produce the most viable team (see Team Selection Score procedures below). These scores are compared to expected scores from other international teams to predict the anticipated scores that may be produced;
3. Each individual skier's past performance in recent premier tournaments, to include any issues that may or could possibly affect anticipated scores in the target international competition;
4. The ability of any skier to function in a team atmosphere, contribute to a team effort, and other positive or negative factors that may exist.

The IAC reserves the right to rely on all of these factors in selecting this team. In the event of unforeseen circumstances which, in the judgment of the IAC, render these considerations and procedures clearly ineffective, the IAC may (by a two-thirds vote of the full IAC committee) amend these qualifications and procedures as necessary to accomplish the goals of the AWSA International Competition Program.

D. Team Selection Procedures. Selection procedures for the U.S. U21 Pan Am Team:

1. The team will be selected based on the process described in these Qualifications and Procedures.
2. Gender distribution shall be 2/2 or 3/1.
3. Each athlete's "Team Selection Score" shall be determined. The Team Selection Score shall be the average of each skier's **two** best tournament scores in each event (the "events" being slalom, trick, and jump) which shall be extracted from USA-WSWS and International Water Ski & Wakeboard Federation (IWWF) sanctioned Class L and R tournaments performances from the 12-month Ranking List for performances as of July 5, 2026 (reported by July 6, 2026 at 11:59 PM PDT). Each score must be from a different site. It is each athlete's responsibility to ensure that all eligible scores are submitted in a timely manner. No late-reported scores, or scores which cannot be verified, will be considered.
4. Team Selection Scores shall be then calculated based on the IWWF 1,000 point system (IWWF Waterski Competition Rule 17) as calculated for team athletes from the U.S. and likely team skiers from other Pan American Federation countries, using scores "officially posted as final" on the IWWF Pan American Rankings list as of the Team Selection Score cut-off date, excluding those who have aged out. Predicted scores for making this calculation shall be based on the average of the two highest Ranking Values for likely team skiers. The highest predicted team skier score in each event (slalom, trick, jump) will be the "1,000 point base." The goal is to use the best possible score as the "1,000 point base."
5. The top male and female skiers based on "overall score" will be selected first provided that the skier contributes to the team score in at least one event. "Overall score" is computed as the sum of three event scores.

6. The next skier will be the male or female skier with the next highest “overall score’ provide that the skier contributes to the team score in at least one event.
7. The fourth skier will be the male and/or female skier with the highest “two event score or “one event score,” not already on the team, provided that the skier contributes to the team score. “Two event score” is defined as the sum of the two highest “event scores” for a skier. The skier contributing the most points to the team score (from one or two events) shall be selected.
8. The four skiers chosen above will be Team 1 (providing Team 1 meets the gender requirements). Consideration will be given to other combinations of four U.S. skiers (meeting the gender requirements) with a preference for three skiers in each event (tricks, slalom, and jump), and which provides strength and depth as to each event (tricks, slalom, and jump). The team combination with the highest predicted score will presumptively be named the U.S. U21 Pan Am Team, except that other factors (such as consistency of performance) may also be considered.
9. If there are no qualifying overall scores meeting some or all of the criteria (male and/or female) set forth in any of the above steps, the IAC will consider alternative criteria and procedures as necessary to accomplish the goals of the AWSA International Competition Program.
10. **The IAC reserves the right to choose another combination of athletes who create a higher team overall score than that chosen using the above steps of this Q&P.**
11. Minor athletes must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the Event and all related travel.
12. **The team selected by the IAC shall be designated as the official U.S. U21 Pan Am Team.**
13. The IAC may (but may not) designate alternates to the U.S. U21 Pan Am Team. The method of selecting these alternates will be at the discretion of the IAC and will not be based on any fixed formula.
14. Excellence in competition is the sole determining factor in making any U.S. Teams.