

~~USOPC-IMS—Surfing~~

USA Surfing

Men's and Women's Shortboard

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2026 World Surfing Games

March 26, 2026

Revised July 20, 2026

USA Surfing was officially certified as the National Governing Body (NGB) for Olympic surfing as of June 1, 2026. As the NGB, USA Surfing is responsible for all selection procedures which will be posted at <https://www.usasurfing.org/selection-procedures>.

To provide information in a timely manner, USA Surfing ~~USOPC-IMS—Surfing~~ is releasing this updated Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 World Surfing Games (WSG). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2026 World Surfing Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released by USA Surfing once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been completed.

A. Anticipated Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes must comply with all International Surfing Association (ISA) eligibility requirements posted at <https://isasurf.org/about-isa/isa-rulebook/>
- Athletes must be a national of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the WSG.
- Athletes must adhere to all ~~USOPC~~, USA Surfing, USADA, WADA, and ISA anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including participation in Out-of-Competition Testing, if applicable.
- Athletes must comply with the USA Surfing [Background Check Policy](#) and [Athlete Safety Policy](#).

B. International Surfing Association Qualification System Overview:

- The maximum Team size can be three (3) athletes per gender. Quota is awarded by quota places to Team USA, not to the athletes by name.
- The ISA Qualification System can be found at <https://isasurf.org/about-isa/isa-rulebook/>

C. Anticipated Evaluation Events:

It is intended that athletes being considered for nomination to the 2026 World Surfing Games Team may be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2026 World Surf League Championship Tour Events	April 1, 2026 – September 20, 2026 April 1 – August 20, 2026
2026 World Surf League Challenger Series Events	July 1, 2026 – September 20, 2026 July 1 – August 20, 2026
2026 World Surf League Qualifying Series Events	April 1, 2026 – September-20, 2026 April 1 – August 20, 2026

It is anticipated that the highest three (3) ranked eligible athletes per gender on the WSL CT ranking as of ~~September 20, 2026~~ ~~August 20, 2026~~, will be nominated to the 2026 World Surfing Games Team.

- If an athlete declines their nomination, the next highest ranked eligible athlete will be nominated.
- If quota is not filled via WSL CT rankings, quota will be offered to the highest ranked eligible athlete on the WSL Challenger Series ranking as of ~~September 20, 2026~~ ~~August 20, 2026~~.
- If quota is not filled via WSL Challenger Series rankings, quota will be offered to the highest ranked eligible athlete on the WSL Qualifying Series ranking as of ~~September 20, 2026~~ ~~August 20, 2026~~.

D. Potential Nomination to the 2028 Olympic Team:

Team USA may earn one (1) Country quota per gender for the 2028 Olympic Games if Team USA wins Team Gold at the 2026 or 2027 World Surfing Games.

On June 29, 2026, the IOC Executive Board approved updates to the [Surfing qualification system](#) for the LA28 Olympic Games. Additionally, on July 1, 2026, the WSL announced, that [Cloud 9](#) (Siargao, Philippines) will be added to the 2026 Championship Tour schedule, potentially preventing CT surfers from competing in the 2026 World Surfing Games. Given these changes and the possibility of further schedule adjustments, USA Surfing will outline the athlete nomination process for the potential Country quota in the full Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games.

~~If Team USA wins Team Gold in either gender, the athlete in that gender with the highest finishing place on the winning WSG Team will be nominated to the 2028 Olympic Games*.~~

- ~~• If Team USA wins Team Gold at both the 2026 WSG and 2027 WSG in the same gender, a tiebreaker will be used to determine which athlete is nominated to the 2028 Olympic Games. The tiebreaker will be outlined in the full Athlete Selection Procedures.~~

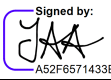
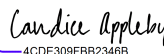
~~*Please note that if Team USA earns Country quota at the 2026 WSG or 2027 WSG, the Country quota will be lost if three (3) Team USA athletes in the same gender qualify by name for the 2028 Olympic Games. If~~

Country quota is lost, Team USA cannot nominate an athlete to the Olympic Games based on their performance at the 2026 or 2027 World Surfing Games.

E. **Disclaimer:**

This preliminary notice is based on the ISA rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2026 World Surfing Games, 2026 WSL Tours and the 2028 Olympic Games. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 World Surfing Games.

For questions about the 2026 World Surfing Games selection process, please contact Tracy Axel, USA Surfing Director of High Performance (tracy@usasurfing.org) ~~Matt Cramer, Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports~~ (~~Matt.R.Cramer@usopc.org~~).

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Surfing Director of High Performance	Tracy Axel	 Signed by: A52F6571433E4F2...	July 18, 2026 9:19:53 PM MDT
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Candice Appleby	 Signed by: 4CDE309EBB2346B	July 20, 2026 9:23:56 AM MDT

Revision History

Date	Revisions
March 26, 2026	Original document published
July 20, 2026	Amendment 1 – Changes to the following: - On June 1, 2026, USA Surfing was certified as the NGB for Olympic Surfing in the United States - On June 29, 2026, ISA revised the LA2028 Olympic Qualification System - Extended the Anticipated Evaluation Events period from August 20, 2026 to September 20, 2026 (see Section C) - On July 1, 2026, WSL added a new event that occurs at the same time as the 2026 World Surfing Games