

2024 USABA NATIONAL QUALIFIERS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS GUIDELINES AND RULES

- 1. Applicability:** These guidelines apply to teams that participate in USABA sanctioned tournaments defined as “National Qualifiers” or the “National Championships”. **These guidelines do not apply to non-sanctioned tournaments, youth programs, school conference goalball programs, or the National High School Goalball Championships.*
- 2. Purpose:** The purpose of the USABA National Qualifiers and Championships are to allow USABA members the opportunity to compete in the sport of goalball for their development in the sport and is a way to showcase the U.S. athletes who are actively involved with their USABA sport club playing the sport on an on-going basis.
- 3. Definitions:** Moving forward, the following definitions will apply to these USABA sanctioned tournaments.
 - a. USABA Goalball Club: A group of USABA members who are playing and practicing goalball on a regular basis and are engaged in on-going club activities to grow the sport and develop athletes. The number of members who are part of a club is infinite and can include coaches, athletes, and supporters.
 - b. Roster: A subset of athletes and coaches who are part of an existing USABA goalball club and are planning on competing at a USABA national qualifier or championships in the upcoming season. A roster can have no more than 10 players and 3 coaches listed and cannot be modified beyond the deadline listed below. Additionally, a roster can only have 2 USABA Goalball National Team Athletes.
 - c. Team: A subset of a roster who has signed up and paid to compete at an upcoming USABA national qualifier or championships. A team can have a maximum of 6 players and 3 coaches and a minimum of 4 athletes on the team and 1 coach. A Team can only have 2 USABA Goalball National team athletes.
 - d. Pool Player: A goalball athlete who is not part of a team for a specific USABA national qualifier or championships and will be assigned a team to join for said tournament only.
- 4. USABA Goalball Club Requirements:** Refer to the [USABA website](#) for more information on how to become a club and renew your club membership. For 2024 it is not required for these clubs to become an official USABA club, but moving into the 2025 season it will be required.
- 5. Roster Requirements:** All USABA clubs playing in these tournaments must have the following in regard to their roster.
 - a. By January 5, 2024, USABA goalball clubs will submit (by email) a copy of the completed roster(s) (attached) to Linda Welborn at

lwelborn@usaba.org, which can include up to ten (10) athletes and 3 coaches per roster. Clubs can submit more than 1 roster but no more than 3 rosters per category (Men A, Men B, and Women). If a club would like to submit more rosters than allowable then an exception will need to be made by the Director Sport Performance.

- b. If a club does not fill their entire roster(s) by the deadline of January 5th, they can make subsequent **additions** to their roster (up to the roster limit) by contacting Linda Welborn, lwelborn@usaba.org. Clubs must submit any new roster **additions** no later than 30 days prior to any USABA Sanctioned Tournament they enter, otherwise that athlete will have to compete in that tournament as a pool player. No deletions or athlete swaps are allowed on a roster without approval from the Director Sport Performance.
- c. Clubs are responsible for ensuring any individuals placed on their rosters meet athlete eligibility requirements as outlined in these guidelines.
- d. All rosters from a club must have a separate roster name to differentiate one roster from another (i.e. Colorado Men's Gold, Colorado Men's Silver, etc)
- e. Multiple rosters from the same club are not permitted to split and form new rosters. Athletes who are assigned to a roster must stay as part of that roster for the entire 2024 goalball season.

6. Team Requirements: All Club rosters playing in these tournaments must have the following in regard to their teams being registered for tournaments and playing in the tournaments.

- a. A team can have a maximum of 6 players and 3 coaches and a minimum of 4 athletes on the team and 1 coach.
- b. A team(s) being registered for a sanctioned tournament needs to do so, and pay the tournament director, by the deadline or no later than 30 days prior to the start of the tournament. No exceptions.
- c. Clubs can submit up to 2 teams per tournament per division (Men A, Men B, and Women). If a club wishes to submit more than 2 teams per division per tournament, the additional team(s) will be added to a waitlist by the tournament director and only approved if there is space in the tournament.
- d. If a team has less than the minimum number of athletes on the team at the registration deadline, a pool player(s) will be assigned to get the team to the minimum number of athletes required.
- e. A team needs to have a coach as part of the team for each tournament. This needs to be designated during registration for each tournament. For 2024, the designated coach can also be a player on the team. *In 2025, each team will be required to have a USABA certified coach listed as a team coach and that coach is not allowed to also play in the tournament as goalball player.*
- f. A team who wishes to be assigned a pool player(s) needs to request this during the tournament registration process.
- g. Each team needs to have a unique uniform top that differentiates them from other teams playing in the tournament in the same division (i.e. color and

design). The uniform top must have a jersey number on each that is a unique number from others on the team. It is preferred the number is on the front and back of the jersey. The size of the number needs to be a minimum of 7 inches tall.

7. Sighted Athletes:

- a. Each team and/or roster may include one sighted athlete. The sighted athlete must be the same gender as the team
- b. Sighted athletes will be identified on the team and/or roster as the team's sighted athlete. The sighted athlete will be required to be a current USABA member.

8. International Athletes and International Teams:

- a. International athletes are eligible to compete as individuals on teams but not as a team made up solely of international players. Only 1 international athlete is eligible per team and 2 per roster.
- b. Teams that have more than 1 international athlete are not permitted to compete at these tournaments.
- c. International athletes who are on a clubs roster must be current USABA members and be in good standing.
- d. International athletes can be pool players but a team still cannot be made up of more than 1 international athlete.

9. Athlete Eligibility and Team Participation:

- a. Any athlete part of a USABA goalball club must be a current USABA member, in good standing, and must be on an official team roster.
- b. All Athletes must strictly adhere to the USABA Code of Conduct as outlined in the membership registration form as well as any and all tournament rules.
- c. No athlete can be listed on more than one roster or be named to more than 1 team at a tournament.
- d. In the event an athlete appears on more than one team or roster, the athlete will be contacted by the USABA Goalball Program Coordinator to determine the team where the athlete should play but the final decision lies with the Director Sport Performance.
- e. Once a roster is completed by a club and then approved by the USABA Goalball Program Coordinator, athletes will remain on that roster for the entire calendar year season.
- f. If an athlete leaves a roster during the season, they cannot join another roster. They must play as a pool player for the remainder of the season. Exceptions may be given by Director Sport Performance for exceptional circumstances.

10. Tournament Guidelines:

- a. Before each tournament, the USABA Goalball Program Coordinator will work with each tournament director to ensure teams who register for

tournaments have approved rosters on file with USABA and their entry is limited to the players and coaches listed on the roster.

- b. Pool Players: Any players not on a team by the registration deadline will be considered pool players.
 - i. If a player is on a roster but not named to a team at a given tournament, the athlete can play in the tournament, they must play as a pool player and cannot be assigned to any teams associated with their club.
 - ii. Assignment of pool players will be conducted by USABA and will be communicated to the tournament director.
 - iii. Pool players cannot request assignments to specific teams and teams cannot request specific pool players.
- c. Coaching multiple teams at one tournament will be allowed, however, the tournament director will be under no obligation to adjust schedule to accommodate these coaches. In addition, a coach may only coach one team per division. Each team needs to identify one person to be the coach.

11. Eligibility and Priority to Play in USABA National Championships:

- a. Eligibility: Any team **and** athlete that plays in the 2024 USABA National Goalball Championships Tournament must have competed in at least one 2024 USABA Sanctioned Goalball Tournament as a member of that team or as a pool player. If an athlete is unable to attend a sanctioned tournament but wishes to attend National Championships, they may request an exception via exceptional circumstances from the Director Sport Performance.
- b. Priority: Any teams who have finished in the top 2 of a respective division at any 2024 USABA National Qualifier get an early bird registration window for the National Championships.

12. Format for Tournaments: Beginning in 2024, USABA has its own USA Goalball Rule Book and all national qualifier tournaments will follow these rules. They can be found on the [USABA Website](#). Here are some additional guidelines for the 2024 USABA adult goalball season.

- a. Games will consist of 10-minute halves unless situations require that the time be adjusted. The length of each half may be adjusted at the discretion of the tournament director and USABA to accommodate potential facility use limitations. The duration of each half will be communicated to all teams in the tournament registration information.
- b. At the discretion of the tournament director and USABA, the men's competitions will consist of two divisions, an "A" division and a "B" division. If there are not enough teams to split into two divisions, USABA, in conjunction with the tournament director, will create pools which best promote a fair and balanced tournament.
 - i. Teams will be ranked for subsequent 2024 tournaments based on their performance at the previous tournament by USABA.

- c. Format for multiple men's divisions. The items below are suggested formats, but the tournament director and the USABA Goalball Coordinator will have final decision on format.
 - i. Tournaments with 7 or fewer men's teams will play in a single pool and will be ranked at the end of pool play following IBSA rules. Teams 1-4 and 2-3 will play in semifinal matches with winners playing in final match for 1st place and losers of the semifinal matches playing for 3rd place.
 - ii. Tournaments with 8-15 men's teams will be placed in 2 pools. If there is an even number of teams, the pools will be split equally, A pool (elite division pool) and B (men's development division pool). If there are an odd number of teams, the B pool will receive the odd numbered team. Teams will be determined by results as described in 4.4.2.1. At the end of pool play, team B1 will play team A4 in a quarterfinal match. The winner of this match will play team A1 in a semifinal match. Teams A2 and A3 will play in a second semifinal match. The winners of the semifinal matches will play in a final match for 1st place and the losers of the semifinal matches will play in a final match for 3rd place.
 - iii. The tournament director and the USABA Goalball Coordinator have final say on the tournament format.
- d. USABA National Qualifiers will be open to all club rosters; no USABA-sanctioned tournament will be operated as an "invitational" tournament. Given facility and time limitations, tournaments may be "capped" at a total number of teams. In these situations, teams will register on a first come, first serve basis until the team division cap is met.
- e. USABA will publish a list of tournaments (date and location) and registration opening and closing dates as soon as possible once tournaments and dates are confirmed.

13. Safety/Security Training Requirements: USABA and tournament organizers are committed to providing players with a safe and secure playing environment. Towards this commitment, all coaches, staff members, tournament directors and USABA referees are required to complete the following training listed below. Additionally, if any minors (under the age of 18) are part of a roster, then all athletes on the roster will need to follow the safety guidelines below as well.

The SafeSport and Background Check requirements listed below are required for the following individuals participating at a USABA-sanctioned regional or national goalball tournament. An individual who fails to complete these items before the start of a USABA-sanctioned tournament will be ineligible to participate or attend that tournament.

- i. Coaches: Any individual who is listed as a coach on approved rosters and sits on the bench or stands in the coaches' box during the game.
- ii. Staff Members: Any USABA staff member, contractor or board member from the national goalball program and the national office.

- iii. Tournament Directors: Any individual who is responsible for coordinating a USABA-sanctioned national qualifier or national championships as selected by USABA staff.
- iv. USABA Referees: Any referee selected as an official for a USABA-sanctioned tournament as selected by the USABA Goalball Coordinator.
 - a. **Criminal Background Checks (NCSI (National Center for Safety Initiatives))**: The background check verification process can take up to 7-10 business days and a clear and current check must be verified before tournament start date. Background checks are valid for 2 years from the approval date and cost \$30.

Submit your background check at: [NCSI Background Check](#)

b. **US Center for SafeSport Training:**

Safesport training is valid for 1 year. The initial SafeSport training course takes approximately 2 hours to complete. Individuals must complete an annual Refresher course which takes approximately 30 minutes. Refresher courses can be found in your SafeSport profile using the same login credentials submitted to complete the initial training. Once you have completed all three refresher courses you must re-complete the initial 2 hour safety training.

Completed SafeSport before? Click here: [SafeSport Login for Existing Users](#)

- Log in and reset your password. Your email is your Username and select Forgot Password. You will be sent an email prompting you to reset your password. Once logged in with your new credentials, you can access upcoming and previous training.

New to SafeSport? Click here: [USABA Safesport Enrollment Link](#)

- This link is specific to USABA, and it is critical that users new to Safesport sign up here rather than on the SafeSport home page.
- Login, navigate to “My Courses” and start courses or see courses you have completed. You can start a course, save progress, and resume or complete training later.

Access Certificates of Completion:

- From the “My Courses” section, find the course and select the “completed” button.
- From the completed course page, navigate to the certificates section and download a PDF certificate.
- To see a full history of your courses, go the menu and select “transcript.”

14. Additional Tournament Rules: The following rules will be enforced at all sanctioned tournaments.

- a. Music will not be allowed inside any goalball gyms
- b. No drug or alcohol use allowed at the tournament venues.
- c. Foul and expletive language while within the venue or transportation will not be allowed and any complaints made against an athlete, coach, or referee will no be handled by the tournament director and the USABA Director Sport Performance.

- d. A tournament director cannot accommodate any travel delays, so if a team is not on their court by game time, they will forfeit their game. No exceptions.
- e. All airport transportation requests need to be submitted to the tournament director by their stated deadline or no transport will be provided. No exceptions.
- f. The tournament director will make all best efforts to have the host hotel provide the free breakfast in a timely manner to allow the athletes playing in the first game(s) of the day have time to eat and use transportation to get to the venue at least 30 minutes before game time.

Please submit a copy of this roster to lwelborn@usaba.org by **January 5, 2024**. If you do not use all 10 athlete slots and 3 coach slots and later decide to add athletes, this is allowed. Please submit a revised roster. That revised roster needs to be received no later than 30 days prior to the next tournament if you plan to add a team with any roster additions. Please identify your sighted athlete on the sighted athlete line. Please identify any international athletes on the international athlete line. All teams need to have a unique name even if from the same club.

2024 USABA GOALBALL CLUB ROSTER

Roster Name: _____ USABA Club Name: _____

Team Contact Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Submission: _____ Men's Roster Women's Roster

	Last Name	First Name	Email Address	DOB	Jersey Number	Sighted/Non-US Athlete
Athlete						
Athlete						
Athlete						
Athlete						
Athlete						
Athlete						
Athlete						
Athlete						
Athlete						
Athlete						
Coach						
Coach						
Coach						