



**U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA)
2026 USA Goalball National Team Selection Procedures**

Amendment 1 of Section 1.1.3:

Original language:

- 1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any): To be eligible for selection to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team, athletes must:
- be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of "Confirmed" or "Review with a Fixed Review Date" or have a current eligible classification as determined by USABA or be eligible to US Association of Blind Athletes: 2026 USA Goalball National Team Selection Procedure As of September 19, 2025 Page 1 of 19 be seen by a classification panel in 2026.
 - o Athletes without a current sport class status must be scheduled for a classification panel in 2026. These athletes must provide (1) proof of a scheduled medical appointment or (2) a Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) from a verified medical specialist by October 15, 2025.
 - MDF must be signed within the last 12 months.
 - be eligible to be licensed with the IBSA and their administrative system (ISAS).

Revised Language:

- 1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any): To be eligible for selection to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team, athletes must:
- be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of "Confirmed" or "Review with a Fixed Review Date" or have a current eligible classification as determined by USABA or be eligible to US Association of Blind Athletes: 2026 USA Goalball National Team Selection Procedure As of September 19, 2025 Page 1 of 19 be seen by a classification panel in 2026.
 - o Athletes without a current sport class status must be scheduled for a classification panel in 2026. These athletes must provide (1) proof of a scheduled medical appointment or (2) a Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) from a verified medical specialist in advance of the tryout event.
 - MDF must be signed within the last 12 months.
 - be eligible to be licensed with the IBSA and their administrative system (ISAS).



Amendment 2 of Section 1.5:

Original language:

1.5 Final Selection for the 2026 USA Goalball National Teams:

- If 8 National Team Athletes per gender are selected from the November Tryout Event (meaning there are no waived athletes), those athletes plus the Prospect Pool athletes (per gender) will be sent their official documentation to finalize their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by December 3rd, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement or USA Goalball Prospect Pool Agreement by December 10th, 2025.

OR

- If fewer than 8 National Team Athletes are selected from the November Tryout Event, the athletes that are selected plus the Prospect Pool athletes will be sent their official documentation to solidify their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by December 3rd, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement by December 10th, 2025.

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- If fewer than 8 National Team Athletes are selected from the November Tryout Event, the athletes that are selected plus the Prospect Pool athletes will be sent their official documentation to solidify their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by December 12th, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement by December 19th, 2025.



Amendment 3 of Section 1.5:

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- If 8 National Team Athletes per gender are selected from the November Tryout Event (meaning there are no waived athletes), those athletes plus the Prospect Pool athletes (per gender) will be sent their official documentation to finalize their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by December 12th, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement or USA Goalball Prospect Pool Agreement by December 19th, 2025.

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1.5 Final Selection for the 2026 USA Goalball National Teams:

- If 8 National Team Athletes per gender are selected from the November Tryout Event (meaning there are no waived athletes), those athletes plus the Prospect Pool athletes (per gender) will be sent their official documentation to finalize their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by December 15th, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement or USA Goalball Prospect Pool Agreement by December 22nd, 2025.

OR

- If fewer than 8 National Team Athletes are selected from the November Tryout Event, the athletes that are selected plus the Prospect Pool athletes will be sent their official documentation to solidify their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by December 15th, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement by December 22nd, 2025.



Amendment 4 of Section 1.5 AND Appendix A:

Original Language:

1.5 Final Selection for the 2026 USA Goalball National Teams:

OR

- If fewer than 8 National Team Athletes are selected from the November Tryout Event, the athletes that are selected plus the Prospect Pool athletes will be sent their official documentation to solidify their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by December 15th, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement by December 22nd, 2025.
 - Then, the remaining National Team for that gender will be selected following the January 2026 National Team Camp. In this case, the athlete(s) with an approved Waiver will participate in a similar Tryout during the January 2026 National Team Camp. Following this Tryout, the Selection Committee will determine if the athlete(s) will be selected to the 2026 National Team.
 - If the Selection Committee determines that the athlete(s) with an approved Waiver should not be selected to the 2026 National Team, the athlete(s) will be selected to the 2026 Prospect Pool. In this case, an athlete(s) from the Prospect Pool will be selected by the Selection Committee to join the 2026 National Team. The Selection Committee will follow the Selection Criteria outlined in Section 2.

Revised Language:

1.5 Final Selection for the 2026 USA Goalball National Teams:

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- If fewer than 8 National Team Athletes are selected from the November Tryout Event, the athletes that are selected plus the Prospect Pool athletes will be sent their official documentation to solidify their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by December 15th, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement by December 22nd, 2025.
 - Then, the remaining National Team for that gender will be selected following the January 2026 National Team Camp. In this case, the athlete(s) with an approved Waiver will participate in a similar Tryout during the January 2026 National Team Camp. Following this Tryout, the Selection Committee will determine if the athlete(s) will be selected to the 2026 National Team.
 - Should a waived athlete not receive a return to play guideline from the USA Goalball Team Head Physician by the January 2026 National Team Camp, the Selection Committee reserves the right to use discretion to determine if the waived athlete should be selected for the Prospect Pool.
 - If the Selection Committee determines that the athlete(s) with an approved Waiver should not be selected to the 2026 National Team, the athlete(s) will be selected to the 2026 Prospect Pool. In this case, an athlete(s) from the Prospect Pool will be selected by the Selection Committee to join the 2026 National Team. The Selection Committee will follow the Selection Criteria outlined in Section 2.



Original Language:

Appendix A –November 2025 Tryout Event Waiver Request Procedure

- C. All 2025 National Team Athletes who receive an approved waiver must fully participate in the Tryout held during the January 2026 National Team Camp. The Tryout in January 2026 will determine if these athletes are selected to the 2026 National Team or the 2026 Prospect Pool.

Revised Language:

Appendix A –November 2025 Tryout Event Waiver Request Procedure

- C. All 2025 National Team Athletes who receive an approved waiver must fully participate in the Tryout held during the January 2026 National Team Camp. The Tryout in January 2026 will determine if these athletes are selected to the 2026 National Team or the 2026 Prospect Pool.
 - Should a waived athlete not receive a return to play guideline by the January 2026 National Team Camp, the Selection Committee reserves the right to use discretion to determine if the waived athlete should be selected for the Prospect Pool.



1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team:

1.1.1 Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States by January 25th, 2026.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire prior to December 31st, 2026.

1.1.2. Minimum International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) standards for participation:

Any athlete participating in an IBSA sanctioned event as a member of the USA Goalball National Team must be a national of the country entering the team - The term 'country' refers to any country, state, territory, or part of a territory, which is accepted by USABA as the area of jurisdiction of a member of USA Goalball. An athlete's nationality is determined by the citizenship of the athlete. Proof of citizenship shall generally be that the athlete holds an official passport issued by the country. Evidence of legal residence or domicile will not be accepted as evidence of nationality unless otherwise permitted by any of the terms of this policy. An athlete who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may choose to represent either one of them. However, after having represented one of the countries in an IBSA-sanctioned event, the athlete may not represent another country without meeting the conditions for a change of nationality.

An athlete who has represented one country in an IBSA-sanctioned event who changes nationality, who acquires a new nationality, or who holds two or more nationalities, may change the country he or she represents to one of his or her other nationalities. The athlete may represent a new country in IBSA-sanctioned competition after three years have passed since the athlete last represented the former country. This waiting period may be reduced to one year with the agreement of the IBSA member for the athlete's former country.

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any): To be eligible for selection to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team, athletes must:

- be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of "Confirmed" or "Review with a Fixed Review Date" or have a current eligible classification as determined by USABA or be eligible to



be seen by a classification panel in 2026.

- Athletes without a current sport class status must be scheduled for a classification panel in 2026. These athletes must provide (1) proof of a scheduled medical appointment or (2) a Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) from a verified medical specialist **by October 15, 2025** in advance of the tryout event.
 - MDF must be signed within the last 12 months.
- be eligible to be licensed with the IBSA and their administrative system (ISAS).

1.1.4. Other requirements:

- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screening in accordance with the current [USABA Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the current [USABA Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- Athletes must be in good standing with the USABA through either .
 - valid 2025 National Team Program Agreement, or
 - valid USABA membership held in good standing
- All candidates must execute and satisfy all conditions set out in the 2026 USA Goalball National Team Tryout Attendance Acknowledgment prior to any tryout/selection camp.

1.2 2026 National Team Tryouts:

- 1.2.1 The 2026 USA Goalball National Team Tryouts (Tryout Event) will be held from November 5-9, 2025 for the Women's Team, and November 12-16, 2025 for the Men's Team. Both Tryout Events will be held at the Colorado Springs U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Center (CS OPTC), with up to 16 athletes invited.

At the conclusion of Tryout Event, up to twelve (12) athletes of each gender will be involved with each USA Goalball Program. Up to eight (8) of these athletes will be identified as USA Goalball National Team Athletes. Up to four (4) additional athletes will be nominated to the USA Goalball Prospect Pool.

Only 2026 USA Goalball National Team and Prospect Pool athletes will be eligible for selection to international tournaments in 2026, including the 2026 World Championships. This format applies to both the USA Goalball Men's Team and USA Goalball Women's Team.

All athletes who participate in the 2026 USA Goalball National Team Tryouts are expected to make themselves available to participate in each of the training camps and tournaments events below as they are essential to the growth of USA Goalball.



2026 High Performance Training Camps:

Women's Dates:

- 1/14 – 1/18/2026
- 2/25 – 3/1/2026
- 3/18 – 3/22/2026
- 5/20 – 5/25/2026
- 9/16 – 9/21/2026
- 11/4 – 11/8/2026
- 12/9 – 12/13/2026

Men's Dates:

- 1/21 – 1/25/2026
- 2/18 – 2/22/2026
- 3/25 – 3/29/2026
- 5/13 – 5/17/2026
- September 2026 (TBD)
- 11/11 – 11/15/2026
- 12/9 – 12/13/2026

**High Performance Training Camp dates are subject to change and could be cancelled, which will be a very rare occurrence. All training camps will be held at the Colorado Springs U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Center, unless otherwise pre-determined with international training camps.*

2026 International Goalball Tournaments (May not include travel days):

- 3/11 – 3/15/2026: Berlin Nations Cup – USA Goalball Men's National Team
- 4/30 – 5/3/2026: Malmo Lady Intercup – USA Goalball Women's National Team
- 6/5 – 6/17/2026: 2026 IBSA World Championship
 - *As of September 2025, USA Goalball Men's National Team has qualified*

1.2.2 Describe how athletes qualify for the 2026 USA Goalball National Team Tryouts:

A) 2025 USA Goalball National Team Athletes:

All current National Team Athletes will be required to complete and submit the 2026 National Team Tryout Attendance Acknowledgement to hold their spot for the Tryout Event.

B) Invited Athletes:

Athletes who wish to be invited to the Tryout Event may submit a 2026 USA Goalball National Team Tryout Application. USABA will publish the National Team Tryout Application on the USABA [platform](#) on September 19th, 2025.



The official deadline to submit the National Team Tryout Application is October 1st, 2025. After the application deadline, each respective Selection Committee (see Section 2.3) will review all completed Tryout Applications that were submitted by the deadline.

The Selection Committee will evaluate each athlete's Tryout Application based on the following criteria, which are not listed in priority order:

- Ability to register as a USABA member if not already registered
- Ability to complete the safety compliances measures listed in the current [USABA Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- Availability for the Tryout Event dates.
- Attendance/participation in previous USABA Sanctioned Tournaments.
- Commitment to the sport through regular Goalball Gameplay.
- Commitment to the sport through regular Goalball Training.
- Ability to provide a Medical Diagnostic Form or proof of a scheduled medical appointment.
- Ability to arrive at the designated Tryout Event location.
- Compatibility with team needs (e.g., player's position).
- Valid USABA membership in good standing.

The respective Selection Committee will determine which eligible athletes will receive Tryout Event invitations based on the criteria listed above. These athletes will receive their invitations by October 8th, 2025.

The Tryout Event will be limited to 16 total athletes per gender.

C) Player Invitation Acceptance:

National Team Athletes

- National Team Athletes must complete and return the 2026 National Team Tryout Attendance Acknowledgement to the USABA Goalball Team & Performance Coordinator by October 1st, 2025.
- National Team Athletes who cannot participate in the Tryout Event due to a verifiable illness, injury, or extenuating circumstance must submit a Waiver Request Form
 - Please see Appendix A for more information on the Waiver Request Form submission and approval process.
 - The Waiver Request Form can be found in Appendix B & C.
- National Team Athletes who receive an approved Waiver must fully participate in the Tryout held during the January 2026 National Team Camp. The January 2026 Tryout will determine if these athletes are selected to the 2026 National Team or the 2026 Prospect Pool.

Invited Athletes

- Athletes who receive an invitation to the Tryout Event by October 8th, 2025 must accept or decline by completing the 2026 National Team Tryout Attendance Acknowledgement within 48 hours of receipt of the invitation, by e-mailing the USABA Goalball Team & Performance



Coordinator.

- If an invited athlete declines participation and/or does not sign the 2026 National Team Tryout Attendance Acknowledgement by the deadline, additional invitations may be offered to eligible athletes at the Selection Committee's discretion. These additional invitations must be accepted or declined within 48 hours of the invitation.
- There will be no extended invitation time periods, and all notifications of acceptance or denial will be final. If there is no response from an invited athlete after 48 hours, their failure to respond will be received as a denial of participation in the Tryout Event.

D) 2026 National Team Tryout Attendees:

- All athletes must participate in the 2026 National Team Tryout held in November 2025 to be selected to the 2026 National Team or 2026 Prospect Pool, except
2025 National Team Athletes who are granted a Waiver who will tryout in their respective 2026 January National Team Camp.
- The final list of 2026 USA Goalball National Team Tryouts attendees will be sent via email to all coaches and participants by October 13th, 2025.
- For all athletes confirmed to participate in the November Tryout Event, the USABA will provide travel to/from the Colorado Springs Airport only and provide transportation to the CS OPTC on designated travel days. Upon arrival at the OPTC, athletes will be provided with credentials, lodging, meals, and on-site support. Once athletes arrive at the CS OPTC, USABA will not oversee or support any transportation outside of the training center throughout the duration of the Tryout Event.

1.3 2026 USA Goalball National Team Evaluation Process:

- At the November Tryout Event, each athlete will be tested and observed in a series of tests and scrimmages. The Selection Committees (see Section 2.3) will evaluate each player based upon the 2026 USA Goalball National Team Tryouts Testing Criteria and will rank athletes while considering positional play.
 - All official evaluation criteria of the Tryout Event are included in the 2026 USA Goalball National Team Tryout Testing Criteria.
 - The Testing Criteria will be sent to participating athletes via email, no later than October 13th, 2025.
- In general, the Testing Criteria will detail and be based on the general discretionary criteria listed in Section 2.2
- Video captured throughout the duration of the November Tryout Event may be used to assist the Selection Committees in evaluating athletes.

1.4 2026 USA Goalball National Team Selection Process:

- No later than November 21st, the Selection Committees will select up to the 8 highest rated athletes, hereby known as the 2026 USA Goalball National Team, per gendered team.



- If a 2025 National Team Athlete(s) receives an approved Waiver, the Selection Committee will not select 8 athletes at the November Tryout Event. In this case, the Selection Committee will select the highest rated athletes minus the number of approved Waivers. (For example, if 2 National Team Athletes have an approved Waiver, the selection committee will only select 6 athletes for the National Team at the November Tryout Event).
- The Selection Committees will also select up to 4 additional athletes per gendered team, known as the 2026 USA Goalball Prospect Pool. The athletes in the Prospect Pool will be the only non-National Team Athletes invited to certain 2026 training camps and will be official affiliates of the 2026 USA Goalball Program.

1.5 Final Selection for the 2026 USA Goalball National Teams:

- If 8 National Team Athletes per gender are selected from the November Tryout Event (meaning there are no waived athletes), those athletes plus the Prospect Pool athletes (per gender) will be sent their official documentation to finalize their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by ~~December 3rd, 2025~~ ~~December 12th, 2025~~ December 15th, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement or USA Goalball Prospect Pool Agreement by ~~December 10th, 2025~~ ~~December 19th, 2025~~ December 22nd, 2025.

OR

- If fewer than 8 National Team Athletes are selected from the November Tryout Event, the athletes that are selected plus the Prospect Pool athletes will be sent their official documentation to solidify their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball Program by ~~December 3rd, 2025~~ ~~December 12th, 2025~~ December 15th, 2025. Athletes must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement by ~~December 10th, 2025~~ ~~December 19th, 2025~~ December 22nd, 2025.
 - Then, the remaining National Team for that gender will be selected following the January 2026 National Team Camp. In this case, the athlete(s) with an approved Waiver will participate in a similar Tryout during the January 2026 National Team Camp. Following this Tryout, the Selection Committee will determine if the athlete(s) will be selected to the 2026 National Team.
 - Should a waived athlete not receive a return to play guideline from the USA Goalball Team Head Physician by the January 2026 National Team Camp, the Selection Committee reserves the right to use discretion to determine if the waived athlete should be selected for the Prospect Pool.
 - If the Selection Committee determines that the athlete(s) with an approved Waiver should not be selected to the 2026 National Team, the athlete(s) will be selected to the 2026 Prospect Pool. In this case, an athlete(s) from the Prospect Pool will be selected by the Selection Committee to join the 2026 National Team. The Selection Committee will follow the Selection Criteria outlined in Section 2.
 - Athletes who are selected to the 2026 National Team or 2026 Prospect Pool following the January Tryout must sign and return the USA Goalball



National Team Program Agreement within 7 days of issuance.

- Only athletes selected to the 2026 National Team or 2026 Prospect Pool will be eligible for selection to international tournaments in 2026, including the 2026 World Championships.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

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

The sport of Goalball is not a measured or timed event, nor does individual skill necessarily qualify an individual to promote team success. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is impossible to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. It is the belief of USABA and USA Goalball that the selection criteria set out below, which include subjective components in the evaluation of team compatibility and game awareness, will result in the selection of the very best 2026 USA Goalball National Team.

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

Goalball is a team sport requiring effective team combinations and individual skills. Thus, a combination of tests and scrimmages will be conducted at the Tryout Event to evaluate players for their selection to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team and 2026 Prospect Pool, in combination with the subsequent discretionary criteria below.

The results of the Tryout Testing Criteria, along with subsequent evaluation of the 2026 National Team Tryouts participants against the discretionary criteria listed below, will be used by the Selection Committees to inform their selection of the 2026 USA Goalball National Teams. Video captured from the Tryout Event may also be used by the Selection Committees to evaluate athletes.

The following general discretionary criteria may be considered in the selection of athletes to the 2026 USA Goalball National Teams. The skills below will be evaluated by the Selection Committee at the 2026 National Team Tryouts.

Technical Skills

- Athletes will be evaluated on technical ability for the game of Goalball.

Athletic Skills

- Athletes will be evaluated on overall athleticism and fitness, in collaboration with strength and conditioning providers, as it pertains to Goalball. (e.g. strength, flexibility, endurance, etc.)

Tactical Understanding

- Athletes will be evaluated on tactical awareness in game situations

Mental Strength

- Attitude, effort, and team capability will be evaluated in relation to stress resistance, competitive mentality, respectful behavior on-and-off the court, and willingness to learn.



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

USA Goalball Women's National Team Selection Committee:

- USABA Goalball Team & Performance Coordinator
- USA Goalball Women's Head Coach
- USA Goalball Men's 10-year Athlete Representative

USA Goalball Men's National Team Selection Committee:

- USABA Goalball Team & Performance Coordinator
- USA Goalball Men's Head Coach
- USA Goalball Women's 10-year Athlete Representative

- 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 USABA's Conflict of Interest Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USABA's Ethics & Judicial Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the Selection Committees who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USABA's Ethics & Judicial 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 USABA's Ethics & Judicial 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 & Judicial 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 USABA Ethics & Judicial Committee, 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 Selection Committees appointment process.

In addition, the USABA maintains a strict no-retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

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

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. An athlete who is nominated to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team by USABA may be removed from the 2026 USA Goalball Program for any of the following reasons:
 - 3.1.1. Failure to sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement by the stated deadline.
 - 3.1.2. Voluntary withdrawal. Athletes must submit a written letter to the USABA CEO, USABA Goalball Team & Performance Coordinator, and their respective Head Coach.
 - 3.1.3. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USABA. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USABA, his/her injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and he/she may be removed.
 - 3.1.4. Failure to maintain the skills or contribution to team success required of National Team members.
 - 3.1.5. Violation of the 2026 USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement.
 - 3.1.6. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
 - 3.1.7. Change in the athlete's classification eligibility following team selection, such that:

The athlete's qualifying visual impairment would no longer have classified him/her according to IBSA.



- 3.2. An athlete may be removed from the USA Goalball National Team for an adjudicated or admitted violation of IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USABA Athlete Safety Policy, as applicable.

4. **REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1. In the event that an athlete is removed from the 2026 USA Goalball National Team, the replacement athlete selected must be a 2026 USA Goalball Prospect Pool athlete.

The Selection Committees listed in Section 2.3 will select a Prospect Pool athlete based on the 2026 National Team Tryouts Testing Criteria in Section 1.3 and Section 2.2.

- 4.2. Once a replacement athlete has been determined that athlete must sign and return the USA Goalball National Team Program Agreement within 7 days of issuance.

5. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USABA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including Applications, Tryout Testing Criteria, Attendance Acknowledgement, National Team Program Agreement from the selection process for a period of three (3) years.

Any video or digital data will be retained until December 31, 2026.

6. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of selection to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team.

- 2026 National Team Program Agreement, or
- 2026 Prospect Pool Agreement

7. **DATE OF NOMINATION**

Up to 8 athletes will be named to the 2026 USA Goalball Women's National Team on December 12th, 2025. Up to 4 additional athletes will be named the 2026 USA Goalball Women's Prospect Pool on the same date.

Up to 8 athletes will be named to the 2026 USA Goalball Men's National Team on December 12th, 2025. Up to 4 additional athletes will be named the 2026 USA Goalball Men's Prospect Pool on the same date.



8. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

All athletes nominated to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team will be required to be available to participate in the events listed in Section 1.2 unless USABA grants a waiver.

Notice of final attendees for these training camps/events will be announced at least 21 days in advance.

9. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, WADA, IF, 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, IF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL TEAM CRITERIA PROCEDURES

The following individuals were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USABA CEO
- USABA Goalball Team & Performance Coordinator
- USABA Office Administrator
- USABA Goalball Coaching Staff
- USABA Team USA AC Representative

12. USABA BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USABA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

USABA Web site: - www.usaba.org

13. 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

WEBSITE: usathlete.org



13. **NGB SIGNATURES**

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding the 2026 National Team Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USABA.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USABA Chief Executive Officer	Margaret Quinn	<u>Margaret Quinn</u> <small>Margaret Quinn (Sep 19, 2025 16:52:41 MDT)</small>	09/19/25
USABA Team & Performance Coordinator	Vito Villa	<u>Vito Villa</u> <small>Vito Villa (Sep 19, 2025 16:51:16 MDT)</small>	09/19/25

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

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	John Kusku	<u>John Kusku</u> <small>John Kusku (Sep 19, 2025 19:17:35 EDT)</small>	09/19/25

* 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.



Appendix A –November 2025 Tryout Event Waiver Request Procedure

Waivers will be reviewed by the Selection Committee (see Section 2.3) for any athlete who:

1. Is a 2025 National Team Athlete;
2. Meets the minimum eligibility requirements outlined in Section 1.1 above;
3. Due to a verifiable illness, injury, or extenuating circumstance, is unable to participate in the 2026 National Team Tryout Event; and
4. Submits a complete Waiver Request Form (see Appendix B & C) by the deadline to:
 - Illness or Injury Waiver: USABA Medical Staff (Goalball Program Head Team Physician) on or before the first day of the Tryout Event.
 - Extenuating Circumstance Waiver: USA Goalball Team & Performance Coordinator on or before the first day of the Tryout Event.

Waiver Request Form Submission:

- A. If the waiver is for an illness or injury, the Waiver Request Form must be accompanied by an examining physician's statement and any applicable medical records. The documentation provided should also address the athlete's return to play timeline.
 - The nature and extent of the illness or injury is subject to verification by USABA Medical Staff or a USABA approved physician.
 - The athlete must provide a signed release to allow a qualified physician approved by USABA to review the medical records submitted along with the Waiver Request Form.
- B. If the waiver is for an extenuating circumstance, the Waiver Request Form must be submitted however, a medical release statement and medical records will not be required. An extenuating circumstance for this purpose is defined as an unpreventable event or situation that prohibits an athlete from participating in the 2026 National Team Tryout. The athlete must submit the Waiver Request Form along with written evidence to support their claim.

Waiver Request Approval Process:

- B. All complete Waiver Request Forms for an illness or injury will be reviewed by USABA Medical Staff (or by a USABA approved physician). The USABA Medical Staff will review the Waiver Request Form and attached documents to determine if the athlete had a verifiable illness or injury that prevented the athlete from attending or fully participating in the 2026 Tryout Event. The USABA Medical Staff will also determine if the athlete's return to play timeline would allow the athlete to fully participate in the January 2026 National Team Camp.
 - If the USABA Medical Staff determines that the athlete had a verifiable illness or injury and determines that the athlete can fully participate in the January 2026, the athlete's waiver will be approved.
- C. All complete Waiver Request Forms for an Extenuating Circumstance will be reviewed by the Selection Committee (see Section 2.3). The Selection Committee will review the Waiver Request Form and attached documents to determine if the athlete had a verifiable extenuating circumstance that prevented the athlete from attending or fully participating in the 2026 Tryout Event.
 - If the Selection Committee determines that the athlete had a verifiable extenuating circumstance, the athlete's waiver will be approved.



- D. All 2025 National Team Athletes who receive an approved waiver must fully participate in the Tryout held during the January 2026 National Team Camp. The Tryout in January 2026 will determine if these athletes are selected to the 2026 National Team or the 2026 Prospect Pool.
- Should a waived athlete not receive a return to play guideline from the USA Goalball Team Head Physician by the January 2026 National Team Camp, the Selection Committee reserves the right to use discretion to determine if the waived athlete should be selected for the Prospect Pool.



APPENDIX B – NOVEMBER 2025 TRYOUT WAIVER REQUEST FORM FOR ILLNESS OR INJURY

Athlete Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Illness or Injury Section – to be completed by the athlete

Please complete the section below:

I (*Athlete name*), _____, do hereby request a waiver to be excused from the 2026 National Team Tryout in November due to (*list reason*)

_____ I agree to release medical information contained in my medical records for the periods of and/or relative to the following specified illness or injury from (*Physician’s Office, Name of Hospital, etc.*):

_____ and allow the information to be released to the following individuals: Members of the USA Goalball Selection Committee and U.S. Association of Blind Athletes Approved Medical Team.

I understand that releasing copies of this information shall no longer guarantee the confidentiality of the information contained in my medical records personnel from liability concerning the release of this information.

Signature _____ Date _____
(*Athlete*)

Signature* _____ Date _____
(**Parent/Legal Guardian if athlete is a minor*)



If submitting a waiver due to an illness or injury, the Goalball Program Head Team Physician can request supporting documentation via the sample form below:

Request the following documentation:

- History and Physical Examination _____ Yes _____ No
- Consultation Report(s) _____ Yes _____ No
- Operative Report(s) _____ Yes _____ No
- Laboratory Report(s) _____ Yes _____ No
- Radiology Report(s) _____ Yes _____ No
- Progress Notes(s) _____ Yes _____ No
- Physician’s Orders _____ Yes _____ No
- ER/OR Report(s) _____ Yes _____ No
- Other Reports (specify) _____

I understand that this release will become a permanent part of my medical record. The release will expire ninety days from the date listed above, unless previously revoked by myself.

Furthermore, I hereby fully release U.S. Association of Blind Athletes and each of its members, officers, directors, employees, agents, and other representatives of any nature whatsoever of and from any and all liabilities, damages, claims or causes of action of any nature or kind whatsoever which I have or may claim to have, arising out of or having any connection, directly or indirectly with the release of my medical records.

Signature _____ Date _____
(Athlete)

Signature* _____ Date _____
(*Parent/Legal Guardian if athlete is a minor)



Sample Waiver Acceptance Form

USABA Waiver Acceptance (to be completed by the Head Team Physician):

After reviewing the documentation provided by the athlete in question, he/she is NOT capable of participating in the November Tryout and should be medically waived on account that the athlete will be recovered/available at their designated January Camp.

Signature _____ Date _____
(Goalball Program Head Team Physician)

Signature _____ Date _____
(Member of the Selection Committee)



APPENDIX C – NOVEMBER 2025 TRYOUT WAIVER REQUEST FORM FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Athlete Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Extenuating Circumstance Section

If submitting a waiver due to an extenuating circumstance, please complete the section below:

Please provide a detailed explanation of the extenuating circumstance in the box below:

I, _____, do hereby state that the named documents,
(Athlete name)
approved testimonies, and evidence listed below are legitimate reasons in which I could not participate in the Tryout Event.

List of items presented to the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Signature _____ Date _____
(Athlete)

Signature* _____ Date _____
*(*Parent/Legal Guardian if athlete is a minor)*



Sample Waiver Acceptance Form

USABA Waiver Acceptance:

After reviewing the extenuating circumstance provided by the athlete in question, he/she is NOT capable of participating in the November Tryout and should be waived on account that the athlete will available at their designated January Camp.

Signature _____ Date _____
(Member of the Selection Committee)