

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Publication Date: August 4, 2026

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool for U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA), and shall govern for the open tryouts through the duration of the Competition Pool. The Competition Pool means the twelve (12) athletes selected to be eligible to be potentially included in the 2027 ParaPan American Games and the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games, as set forth in the selection procedures for those competitions.

SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRYOUT EVENT

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:

- Athlete must be a citizen of the United States. Athletes must provide a copy of their valid/current U.S. passport upon selection to the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool.

2. Classification Requirement:

- Athlete must be previously classified by IBSA or meet the minimum eligibility requirements for international classification as established by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), [\[IBSA Classification Rules\]](#).

3. Medical Requirements:

- Athlete must provide a completed sport physical examination clearing the athlete to participate for sport .
- Athlete must provide documentation from a licensed eye care professional outlining:
 - Visual acuity
 - Eye Condition/Diagnosis
 - Visual field restrictions (if applicable)

4. Additional Requirements:

- Athlete must have an active USABA membership in good standing.
- Athlete must demonstrate active player participation in goalball within the past two (2) years (e.g., tournaments, leagues, or sanctioned events). Athletes must provide a list of tournaments, they've participated in during the registration process. USABA reserves the right to contact tournament organizers, to confirm participation.
- Athletes 18 years of age and older must comply with the USABA Background Check Policy. If Athlete turns 18 while in the 2027/2028 Competition Pool they must complete a background check within 45 days of their birthday.
- Athlete must comply with the [USABA Code of Conduct](#), and all other applicable USABA policies.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

- Athlete must comply with the [USABA SafeSport Policy](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) including education and training requirements.
- Athlete must not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the athlete ineligible to participate in the Event. This is an ongoing obligation while the athlete is in the 2027/2028 Competition Pool.
- Athlete must not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the athlete ineligible to participate in the Event. This is an ongoing obligation while the athlete is in the 2027/2028 Competition Pool.
- Athlete must be able to effectively understand and communicate within a goalball competition environment in English, including:
 - Understanding and executing coaching instructions
 - Communicating with teammates during gameplay and drills
 - This requirement is necessary to ensure athlete safety, team coordination, and effective participation within the USA Goalball competition system.

SECTION 3: TRYOUT DATES/LOCATION

The 2026 USA Goalball Open Tryouts will be conducted for the purpose of evaluating athletes for the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool. All athletes who meet the minimum eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2 and complete the required registration process outlined in Section 4 may participate in the Open Tryout.

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION
September 2 – 6, 2026	Men's Open Tryout
September 16 – 20, 2026	Women's Open Tryout
The Tryout Events will be hosted at the United States Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO	

SECTION 4: OPEN TRYOUT REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

All athletes must participate in the 2026 USA Goalball Open Tryout to be eligible for selection to the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool. USABA reserves the right to review all submitted materials to verify that minimum eligibility requirements are met. Registration must be confirmed to participate and such confirmation will only be confirmed upon verification and approval of all required documentation by USABA. If there are any changes to the eligibility requirements between the date of registration and naming of the 2027/2028 Competition Pool, the athlete has the obligation to disclose such change and may be removed from the pool if eligibility requirements are no longer met. This is an ongoing obligation for all Competition

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Pool athletes through the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.

A. Open Tryout Registration:

Athletes who meet all minimum eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2 may register for the Open Tryout by filling out the online registration form by July 10, 2026.

Registration will be reviewed and will be subject to the following conditions:

- Athletes must submit all required documentation and fees by the stated deadlines
- Athletes must receive confirmation from USABA prior to participation
- Participation is not guaranteed until eligibility verification is complete and payment is confirmed

B. 2026 USA Goalball National Team or 2026 USA Goalball Prospect Pool Athletes:

Athletes who are members of the 2026 USA Goalball National Team or 2026 USA Goalball Prospect Pool may participate in the Open Tryout provided they:

- Meet all minimum eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2.
- Follow all the Open Tryout Registration process outlined below (Section 4 B).

2026 National Team and Prospect Pool Athletes who do-not follow the Open Registration process may not participate in the Open Tryout.

If a 2026 National Team Athlete cannot participate in the Open Tryout due to injury, illness, or extenuating circumstance, the athlete must submit a waiver request form. Please see Section 8 for more information.

Please note that while the Open Tryout is available to all eligible athletes, participation may be limited based on operational capacity, facility constraints, and athlete safety considerations at the United States Olympic & Paralympic Training Center (USOPTC).

C. Athlete Financial Responsibility

All athletes are responsible for arranging and funding their participation in the Open Tryout, including:

- Airfare and travel
- Local transportation
 - USABA will partner with the USOPTC to arrange transportation to and from the Colorado Springs Airport on designated arrival and departure days
 - Athletes eligible to attend the Open Tryout who choose to stay elsewhere will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the USOPTC.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

The total cost to participate at the 2026 USA Goalball Open Tryout is **\$360** per person and covers 4 nights (Wednesday to Sunday) lodging and breakfast, lunch and dinner during the stay, all at the USOPTC.

D. Registration and Payment Deadlines

- Registration Deadline: July 10, 2026
- Payment Deadline: July 17, 2026

Please note that failure to cure any defects in eligibility or registration prior to the payment deadline will result in forfeiture of participation.

USABA reserves the right to deny or revoke participation at any time if an athlete is found to be non-compliant with the requirements outlined in these Selection Procedures.

SECTION 5: ATHLETE EVALUATION AT THE OPEN TRYOUT

The Open Tryout serves as the only athlete evaluation opportunity for entry into the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool. During the Open Tryout, each athlete will be tested and observed through a series of standardized tests, drills, and competitive scrimmages by the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee is composed of: the Head Coach, the Assistant Coach and an athlete representative as follows:

USA Goalball Men's Evaluation Committee:

USA Goalball Men's Head Coach

USA Goalball Men's Assistant Coach

USA Goalball Women's 10-year Athlete Representative

USA Goalball Women's Evaluation Committee:

USA Goalball Women's Head Coach

USA Goalball Women's Assistant Coach

USA Goalball Men's 10-year Athlete Representative:

The Evaluation Committee will use the evaluation components from the 2026 USA Goalball Competition Pool Tryout Testing Criteria to score each athlete.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

In general, these criteria are designed to assess athlete performance, including objective technical execution, and athletic ability. The Evaluation Committee will also use the discretionary criteria outlined in Section 6 to further support the Selection Committee's review and selection of athletes.

- Video and other performance data captured throughout the duration of the Open Tryout Event may be used to support athlete evaluation and ensure accuracy and consistency in the review process.
- The Evaluation Committee will submit its scores from the 2026 USA Goalball Competition Pool Tryout Testing Criteria to USABA. USABA will compile each athlete's scores and provide the Selection Committees (see Section 6.2) with the results to include: three independent scores from each evaluator, the average amongst the three scores, the mean/median/range/athlete ranking for each test and overall score. The Selection Committee will then evaluate each athlete's score sheets and will develop athlete rankings based on overall scores for each criteria with consideration for the guidance provided in the attached Appendix A.

SECTION 6: DISCRETIONARY SELECTION CRITERIA

6.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

Goalball is a team sport requiring effective team combinations and individual skills 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 outlined in the 2026 USA Goalball Open Tryout Testing Criteria, which includes subjective components in the evaluation of team compatibility and game awareness, along with objective measures will result in the selection of the best 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool.

This combined approach is intended to ensure that the athletes identified through the Open Tryout represent the best possible combination of individual ability and team effectiveness. Athlete evaluation and selection for the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool will be based on 2026 USA Goalball Open Tryout Testing Criteria and Selection Committee guidance found in the attached Appendix A.

6.2 SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee will be responsible for selecting the Competition Pool after evaluating and discussing the Evaluation Committee's scores on each athlete and/or other decisions and recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process. The suggested process for how the Selection Committee should discuss each athlete is provided in the attached Appendix A. *A non-voting Independent Observer will attend each Selection Committee meeting.*

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

USA Goalball Men's Competition Pool Selection Committee:

- USABA Grant and Development Manager
- USA Goalball Men's Head Coach
- USA Goalball Women's 10-year Athlete Representative

USA Goalball Women's Competition Pool Selection Committee:

- USABA Grant and Development Manager
- USA Goalball Women's Head Coach
- USA Goalball Men's 10-year Athlete Representative

SECTION 7: 2027/2028 SELECTION TIMELINES

Following the conclusion of the Open Tryout, the applicable Selection Committee (see Section 6.2) will determine which athletes will be selected to the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool based on the criteria outlined in Sections 5-6 of these Selection Procedures.

- By October 21, 2026 the USA Goalball Men's and Women's Competition Pool Selection Committees will formally select and announce up to twelve athletes to the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool.
 - Athletes selected to the Competition Pool will be the only athletes eligible for invitation to designated USA Goalball training camps and be eligible to serve as official affiliates of the 2027/2028 USA Goalball High Performance Program, unless a waiver has been granted (see Section 8).
 - Official dates of High-Performance Training Camps will be made available to the USA Goalball Competition Pool and are currently slated for Men's team November 11-15, 2026; Women's team November 4-8, 2026, and days in January TBD and February TBD. March 2027 will be the 2027 ParaPan American Games selection camp which all athletes selected to the Competition Pool must attend; Date TBD. Following the conclusion of the 2027 ParaPan American Games, all athletes in the Competition Pool are expected to attend all High-Performance Training Camps leading up to the February 2028 Selection Camp for LA28. These camps are currently scheduled for November 2027 and January 2028 but remain subject to change or inclusion of additional camps.
- USABA will release individual scores to the respective athlete after selection is announced, which will include mean median and range scores.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

SECTION 8: 2026 USA GOALBALL NATIONAL TEAM WAIVER PROCESS

8.1 MEDICAL WAIVER REQUESTS

2026 USA Goalball National Team athletes who are unable to attend the Open Tryout due to verifiable injury, illness, medical condition, or extenuating circumstance (as defined below) may submit a formal waiver request to USABA. These are the only athletes eligible for a waiver for the Open Tryout.

ALL MEDICAL WAIVERS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES:

Medical Waiver Deadlines

Male Athletes – August 31, 2026

Female Athletes – September 14, 2026

Athletes selected to the 2026 USA Goalball Prospect Pool and all other athletes are required to participate in the Open Tryout and are not eligible for a waiver for the Open Tryout.

Participation in the Open Tryout remains the only pathway into the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool unless otherwise provided within this Section.

If an athlete has an approved waiver, their status as a potential Competition Pool athlete will be frozen until their return to play as documented by a board certified medical doctor in the specialty of the injury, illness, medical condition at issue; provided, however, return to play must happen in a reasonable time as determined by the USA Goalball Head Team Physician in their reasonable medical discretion and whose decision, absent extenuating circumstances, is final. If a waiver is approved, the athlete must comply with all USA Goalball Head Team Physician reporting requirements, including scheduled medical updates, rehabilitation progress reports, and return-to-play assessments.

An athlete who is granted a waiver will be evaluated by the respective coaching staff to assess if the athlete's skills are on par with the needs of the Competition Pool. This assessment will occur at the first training camp after the athlete's return to play.

8.2 MEDICAL WAIVER REQUEST REQUIREMENT

The form Medical Waiver Request is attached as Appendix B.

The Medical Waiver Request must:

- Be submitted in writing.
- Include all supporting medical documentation.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

- Include an anticipated and reasonable return-to-play date.
- Include a written declaration from the athlete stating their intent to return to competitive goalball in the return to play date or before.

Medical Waiver Requests shall be reviewed by:

- USA Goalball Head Team Physician(s)

8.3 RETURN TO PLAY AND SECOND OPINION

If an athlete with an approved waiver cannot return to play as of the return to play deadline, they must submit a request to the USA Goalball Head Team Physician to extend their return to play deadline, along with an explanation for the request. If the USA Goalball Head Team Physician denies the request in their reasonable opinion, the athlete will be removed from the Competition Pool, unless the athlete elects to submit a second medical opinion from a board certified licensed physician in the specialty pertaining to the injury, illness or medical condition substantiating the extension request.

The Second Medical Opinion must:

- Be submitted within thirty (30) days of notification.
- Be submitted to the USA Goalball Head Team Physician(s).
- Include all supporting medical documentation.
- Include an anticipated and reasonable return-to-play date.

The USA Goalball Head Team Physician(s) will review the second opinion within seven (7) days of submission, to determine whether in their reasonable medical opinion, an extension of the athlete's return-to-play timeline is appropriate. The determination of the Head Team Physician(s) shall be final.

8.4 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES REQUESTS

A 2026 USA Goalball National Team athlete who is unable to attend the Open Tryout due to an Extenuating Circumstance may submit an Extenuating Circumstance Waiver Request; the form of which is attached as Appendix C. Extenuating Circumstance means the death or funeral services of immediate family member, the contraction of a communicable disease that puts others at risk as confirmed by USA Goalball Head Team Physician, or an unavoidable change in circumstance beyond the control of the athlete that directly impacts that athlete's quality of life.

Extenuating Circumstance Waiver Requests shall be reviewed by the applicable Selection Committee (see section 6.2).

The Selection Committee shall determine:

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

- Whether the extenuating circumstance is valid.
- Whether the athlete's previous performance and anticipated availability support continued involvement in the USA Goalball Competition Pool.

Along with their waiver request form, athlete must:

- Submit the waiver and all supporting documents in writing.
- Include all supporting documentation.
- Submit any additional documentation requested from the Selection Committee.
- Include an anticipated and reasonable return-to-play date.
- Include a written declaration from the athlete stating their intent to return to competitive goalball in the return to play date or before.

If an athlete is denied an Extenuating Circumstance Waiver they shall be removed from consideration for the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool, should they not attend the Open Tryouts.

8.5 EMERGENCY WAIVERS DURING OPEN TRYOUTS FOR MEDICAL OR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

A 2026 USA Goalball National Team athlete who experiences a significant injury or extenuating circumstance during the Open Tryout may apply for a waiver from the Open Tryout. Athletes selected to the 2026 USA Goalball Prospect Pool and all other athletes are not eligible for an Emergency Waiver.

An injury shall follow the Medical Waiver Request process. An extenuating circumstance shall follow the Extenuating Circumstances Waiver Request process.

8.6 ALTERATION TO TESTING CRITERIA

If any athlete has an injury or medical condition such that an alteration to the testing criteria is required, such request must be lodged by August 20, 2026. The request must include information pertaining to the injury or medical condition, the specific test accommodation being requested, and supporting justification for why the test accommodation is necessary. This request may only be used to modify existing testing criteria and may not be used as justification to skip any test as outlined in the 2026 USA Goalball Open Tryout Testing Criteria. The request will be reviewed by the USA Goalball Head Team Physician. The athlete will be notified of the status of such request no less than two (2) days prior to the start of their respective tryout. Requests after this time will not be approved and there will not be any new alteration accommodated during the Open Tryout itself.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

SECTION 9: MANDATORY TRAINING

Athletes selected to the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool are expected to attend the three (3) 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool High-Performance training sessions occurring on Men's team November 11-15, 2026; Women's team November 4-8, 2026, TBD days in January 2027 and February 2027, and the ParaPan American selection camp in March 2027. Following the conclusion of the 2027 ParaPan American Games, all athletes in the Competition Pool are expected to attend all High-Performance Training Camps leading up to the February 2028 Selection Camp for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games. These camps are currently scheduled for November 2027 and January 2028 but remain subject to change or inclusion of additional camps.

All athletes in the Competition Pool (and those with approved waivers) should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work, or other obligations in advance. Waivers for absences will not be unreasonably withheld, but will be primarily granted for illness, injury or other similar incapacity, or for a personal/family emergency. Requests for a waiver must be submitted in writing as far in advance as possible to the respective Head Coach and Head Team Physician.

SECTION 10: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE 2027/2028 USA GOALBALL NATIONAL COMPETITION POOL

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool may be removed for any of the following reasons, as reasonably determined by USABA:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the USABA Interim Executive Director, and their respective Head Coach requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool.
 - ii. Injury or Illness. In the event an athlete misses more than thirty (30) days of training due to a new illness or injury related to their participation with USA Goalball, athlete must submit to the USA Goalball Head Team Physician medical documentation certifying the same for review. The Head Team Physician will provide the athlete a reasonable return to play date. If, within ten (10) days before the return to play date the athlete believes they need an extension, they may request it. If the Head Team Physician denies the request in their reasonable opinion, the athlete will be removed from the Competition Pool, unless they elect to submit a second medical opinion from a board certified licensed physician in the specialty pertaining to the injury, illness or medical condition substantiating the extension request. If they cannot obtain a second opinion and they don't return to play, this will be grounds for removal from the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool. If an athlete sustains an injury not related to their participation with USA Goalball that removes them from training for thirty (30) days, this may result in immediate removal, without the opportunity to return to play, from the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool as reasonably determined by USABA.
 - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training as defined in Section

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

9.

- iv. Code of Conduct Violation or a violation of any other USABA bylaw, policy or procedure. Athlete violates the [USABA Code of Conduct](#). Any alleged violation must be formally submitted in writing to the Interim Executive Director of USABA. Upon receipt, the Executive Director will notify the applicable Selection Committee (see Section 6.2) and provide any relevant supporting documentation for review. The Selection Committee shall review the reported violation and determine whether the athlete's conduct constitutes a violation of the USABA Code of Conduct. A unanimous determination by the Selection Committee shall be required before a recommendation for removal may be submitted to the Executive Director for final review and confirmation.
 - a) If a member of the Selection Committee is the individual who reported or referred the alleged violation, that member shall participate in the review process but shall not be counted toward the unanimous determination required for removal. In such cases, the remaining Selection Committee members must unanimously agree that a violation has occurred and that removal is warranted.
 - b) All members of the Selection Committee shall be present during the review and discussion of the matter unless otherwise prohibited by a conflict of interest.
- v. Non-compliance.

Athlete may be removed from the Competition Pool if:

- a. Athlete does not meet or fails to maintain the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 2 of these selection procedures.
- b. Athlete is found to have violated IBSA, USADA, WADA, and/or the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USABA SafeSport Policy, as applicable. *During an investigative phase, USABA will comply with any requests from investigating bodies up to and including temporary suspension.
- c. Athlete's classification eligibility changes such that the athlete's qualifying visual impairment would no longer have classified him/her according to IBSA.

An athlete who is removed from the Competition Pool pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USABA Bylaws, Article XI, Section 1(c), and the USABA Grievance Procedures would apply as set forth in Section 12 below.

SECTION 11: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS IN THE 2027/2028 COMPETITION POOL

- 11.1 Should a vacancy occur, USABA may decide to replace the spot or leave it empty. If it decides on replacement, is the responsibility of the Selection Committee to determine such athlete based on process outlined in Sections 5-6 of these procedures.
- 11.2 The Selection Committee must unanimously agree that the athlete's contribution to the Competition Pool will not hinder high-performance standards, based on:

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

- Performance at the Open Tryout
- Previous National Team or Prospect Pool experience

11.3 The replacement athlete must have attended the 2026 USA Goalball Competition Pool Open Tryout in September of 2026 and must meet all requirements listed in Section 2, except as mentioned with Section 8 (Waiver Process)

SECTION 12: USABA BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USABA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at: USABA Web site:

<https://www.usaba.org/membership/policies-and-procedures/>

SECTION 13: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to Competition Pool:

- [USABA Code of Conduct](#)

SECTION 14: USABA CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 6.2) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 17) must comply with the [USABA Conflict of Interest Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USABA Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a Selection Committee Member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USABA's Ethics & Judicial Committee. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No Selection Committee Member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC 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.

SECTION 15: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

Athletes may contact Michael Holmes, USABA Interim Executive Director at mholmes@usaba.org with questions about these selection procedures

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

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

SECTION 16: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USABA will retain these Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including Registration, Tryout Testing Criteria, and the conflict of interest forms of the Selection Committee until the conclusion of the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.

SECTION 17: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures along with the 2026 USA Goalball Open Tryout Testing Criteria.

NAME	ROLE
Michael Holmes	USABA Interim Executive Director
Vito Villa	USABA Goalball Team & Performance Coordinator
Nicole Kirk	USA Goalball Women's National Team Head Coach
John Potts	USA Goalball Women's National Team Assistant Coach
Michael Dennis	USA Goalball Men's National Team Head Coach
Morgan Blatnik	USA Goalball Men's National Team Assistant Coach
Ali Lawson	USABA Team USA Alternate AC Representative
Andrew Jenks	USABA AAC Representatives
Jen Armbruster	USABA AAC Representatives
John Kusku	USABA Team USA AC Representative

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

The following individual approved these selection procedures along with the 2026 USA Goalball Open Tryout Testing Criteria and certifies that these selection procedures will be posted on the USABA website.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USABA Interim Executive Director	Michael Holmes	<i>Michael J. Holmes</i>	08/04/2026

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

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	John Kusku	<i>John Kusku</i> John Kusku (Aug 4, 2026 09:54:06 EDT)	04/08/2026

* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission (AC) Representative has delegated authority to the Team USA Athletes' Commission Alternate 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.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Appendix A: Selection Committee Guidance

Purpose. This guidance is intended to support a consistent, fair, and transparent process for selecting the 12 athletes who will make up the 2027-2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool. The selection process should remain led by the tryout scores while also ensuring that the final pool has the positional balance and versatility needed to compete effectively.

Guiding Selection Principles

- **Score-led selection.** The starting point is to select the athletes with the highest overall tryout scores.
- **Positional balance.** The final group of 12 must provide appropriate coverage at left wing, center, and right wing.
- **Consistent athlete review.** Each athlete discussed should be evaluated using the same criteria and in comparison with other athletes at the same primary position.
- **Clear rationale.** Any decision that changes the order established by the overall scores should be tied to positional need, versatility, or the evaluation factors outlined below.

Recommended Selection Process

1. Rank all athletes by total score.

Begin with the complete tryout results and rank all athletes from highest to lowest total score.

2. Identify the top six athletes.

The six highest-scoring athletes should be treated as presumptive selections for the Competition Pool. The committee should briefly confirm their primary positions and verify that selecting all six does not create a significant positional concern. Unless a material concern is identified, these athletes should not require extended discussion.

3. Assess the initial positional distribution.

After the top six are identified, record how many athletes have been selected at each primary position: left wing, center, and right wing.

4. Evaluate the remaining candidates in relation to both score and positional need.

The next group of athletes should be considered in score order, with particular attention to the positions that still need to be filled. The ideal distribution is four left wings, four centers, and four right wings. A 5-4-3 distribution may also be appropriate. The committee should avoid selecting an unnecessarily high or low number of athletes who share the same primary position (i.e., no more than 5 athletes and no less than 3 athletes for a given primary position).

5. Apply the close-score comparison criteria.

When athletes are within five points of one another, the committee should compare them with the following criteria:

- Secondary position and positional versatility:** Consider whether the athlete can credibly cover another position and how that flexibility strengthens the overall pool.
- Objective testing results:** Review strength and conditioning results, accuracy testing, and in-game defensive and offensive performance.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

- c. **Subjective evaluation areas:** Review the scored subjective categories, with particular attention to team culture and the athlete's ability to contribute positively within the national team environment.

6. Confirm the final pool.

Before finalizing the 12 athletes, review the complete position chart and confirm that the pool has sufficient coverage at all three positions. The committee should also document a concise selection rationale for all athletes.

Individual Athlete Review

As each athlete comes forward for discussion, the committee should work through the same review sequence. This is especially important for athletes being considered for Competition Pool positions 7-12 and for any athlete within five points of the selection line.

Review Area	Committee Guidance
1. Overall score and ranking	Confirm the athlete's total score, overall rank, and distance from the current selection line.
2. Primary position	Evaluate the athlete within their primary position and compare their score and performance with the other athletes competing at that position.
3. Positional need	Identify whether the athlete fills a position that is still needed or would create unnecessary duplication within the pool.
4. Secondary position	Determine whether the athlete can provide meaningful coverage at another position and whether that versatility improves the final group of 12.
5. Objective performance	Review strength and conditioning, accuracy, and in-game defensive results. Identify any objective strengths or concerns that distinguish the athlete from closely scored peers.
6. Subjective evaluation	Review the athlete's scores in the subjective categories, including team culture, coachability, communication, and contribution to the training environment, as reflected in the tryout evaluation.
7. Committee conclusion	State whether the athlete should be selected or not selected. Record a brief reason tied to the established criteria.

Expected Level of Discussion

- Athletes ranked 1-6: Conduct a brief validation of position and overall pool balance. Extended discussion should occur only if a significant concern is identified.
- Athletes being considered for Competition Pool positions 7-12: Plan for a focused discussion per athlete, including a review of the athlete's individual scores, strengths, positional fit, and comparison with other athletes at the same position.
- Athletes immediately outside the top 12: Discuss when they are within five points of an athlete under consideration or when their position or versatility is relevant to building a balanced pool.
- Waivered athletes should be counted towards a spot under their primary position.

Final decision standard. The committee should select the strongest group of 12 based on the tryout scoring while ensuring the final pool is appropriately balanced across positions. When athletes are closely scored, the committee should use the established comparison criteria consistently and clearly document the reason for its decision.

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Appendix B: Medical Waiver Request Form

Purpose and Submission Requirements

- Only athletes selected to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team may request a waiver from the 2026 Open Tryout under Section 8 of the Selection Procedures.
- Use this form when a verifiable injury, illness, or medical condition prevents attendance or full participation. Extenuating circumstance requests must use Appendix C.
- Submit this completed form and all supporting medical documentation by August 31, 2026 (male athletes) or September 14, 2026 (female athletes). An emergency medical waiver arising during the Open Tryout should be submitted as soon as reasonably possible.
- A request is not complete until USABA receives the required information. Submission does not guarantee approval. Medical waiver requests are reviewed by the USA Goalball Head Team Physician(s).

Important: Keep a copy of the completed form and every attachment submitted.

1. Athlete Information

Athlete full legal name Enter full legal name	Date of birth MM/DD/YYYY
Email address Enter email address	Phone number Enter phone number
National Team Enter Men's or Women's National Team	Athlete status Enter adult or minor

2. Medical Waiver Request

Requested waiver type (mark one): ☐ Unable to attend Open Tryout ☐ Emergency medical waiver during Open Tryout

Open Tryout affected Enter men's or women's tryout and dates	Date injury, illness, or condition began MM/DD/YYYY
Date last able to participate fully in goalball MM/DD/YYYY or not applicable	Current treatment status Enter active treatment, rehabilitation, pending evaluation, etc.
Briefly identify the injury, illness, or medical condition Enter a concise description. Detailed medical documentation must be attached.	
Explain specifically why the condition prevents attendance or full participation in the Open Tryout Describe the functional impact and why participation is not medically appropriate or possible.	

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Medical Provider Information and Support

(to be completed by the provider)

3. Treating Medical Provider

Provider name Enter provider name	Credentials and specialty Enter credentials and specialty
Practice or facility Enter practice or facility	Phone number Enter provider phone number
Email address Enter provider email address	Fax number Enter provider fax number or not applicable

4. Medical Support for the Waiver Request

Diagnosis or medical condition and date of diagnosis Enter diagnosis/condition and date, or reference the attached provider letter.
Current symptoms, functional limitations, and medical reason the athlete cannot attend or fully participate Describe relevant limitations and the medical basis for the requested waiver.
Current treatment and rehabilitation plan Describe treatment, rehabilitation, and expected progression.
Anticipated and reasonable return-to-play date MM/DD/YYYY
Next scheduled medical evaluation and any anticipated restrictions at return Enter follow-up date and expected restrictions, or state none.
Additional medical information relevant to this request Enter additional information or state none.

Provider certification: I certify that the information provided above or in the attached documentation is accurate to the best of my professional knowledge and supports the anticipated return-to-play date stated.

Provider signature Type or sign name	Date MM/DD/YYYY
Provider license number and state Enter license number and state	Board certification, if applicable Enter certification or not applicable

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Athlete Declaration and Submission

5. Anticipated Return and Supporting Documents

Anticipated return-to-play date stated in this request

MM/DD/YYYY

Athlete plan for rehabilitation, training, and return to competitive goalball

Describe the plan for following treatment, rehabilitation, and resuming competitive goalball.

List every document attached to this request

List provider letters, examination notes, imaging reports, rehabilitation plans, or other supporting documents.

6. Athlete Declaration, Acknowledgments, and Limited Authorization

- I certify that the information in this request and all attachments is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I declare my intent to return to competitive goalball on or before the anticipated return-to-play date stated in this request.
- If this waiver is approved, I agree to comply with all reporting requirements established by the USA Goalball Head Team Physician(s), including medical updates, rehabilitation progress reports, and return-to-play assessments.
- I understand that an approved waiver freezes my status as a potential Competition Pool athlete until I am medically cleared to return and evaluated by the applicable coaching staff at the first training camp after my return to play.
- I understand that approval is not automatic and that failure to return by the approved deadline, obtain an approved extension, or comply with required medical reporting may affect or end my consideration for the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool.
- I authorize USABA and the USA Goalball Head Team Physician(s) to review the medical information I voluntarily submit with this request and to contact the medical provider identified in this form solely to evaluate the waiver request, administer required follow-up if approved, and determine return-to-play status. I understand that a medical provider may require a separate authorization before releasing additional records.

Athlete signature Type or sign name	Date MM/DD/YYYY
Parent or legal guardian name (required if athlete is a minor) Enter name or not applicable	Relationship to athlete Enter relationship
Parent or legal guardian signature Type or sign name or not applicable	Date MM/DD/YYYY or not applicable

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

7. For USABA Use Only

Date received MM/DD/YYYY	Request status upon receipt Complete / incomplete; list missing items
Date referred to Head Team Physician(s) MM/DD/YYYY	Decision Approved / denied / pending additional information
Decision rationale, conditions, required reporting schedule, and approved return-to-play deadline Enter decision details and any conditions.	
Head Team Physician signature Type or sign name	Date MM/DD/YYYY

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Appendix C: Extenuating Circumstance Waiver Request Form

Purpose and Submission Requirements

- Only athletes selected to the 2026 USA Goalball National Team may submit an Extenuating Circumstance Waiver Request.
- Use this form when a qualifying circumstance prevents attendance at the Open Tryout or requires an emergency departure during the Open Tryout.
- A qualifying circumstance is: the death or funeral services of an immediate family member; a communicable disease that puts others at risk; or an unavoidable change beyond the athlete's control that directly impacts the athlete's quality of life.
- Submit this form and all supporting documentation in writing. The applicable Selection Committee may request additional documentation.
- Submission does not guarantee approval. If the request is denied and the athlete does not attend the Open Tryout, the athlete will be removed from consideration for the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool.

1. Athlete Information

Athlete full legal name Enter full legal name	Date of birth MM/DD/YYYY
Email address Enter email address	Phone number Enter phone number
National Team Enter Men's or Women's National Team	Athlete status Enter adult or minor

2. Extenuating Circumstance Waiver Request

Requested waiver type (mark one): ☐ Unable to attend Open Tryout ☐ Emergency waiver during Open Tryout

Open Tryout affected Enter men's or women's tryout and dates	Date circumstance occurred or became known MM/DD/YYYY
Type of extenuating circumstance (mark one) ☐ Death or funeral services of an immediate family member ☐ Communicable disease that puts others at risk ☐ Unavoidable change beyond the athlete's control that directly impacts the athlete's quality of life	
Describe the extenuating circumstance Provide a clear, concise explanation of what occurred and when.	
Explain why the circumstance prevents attendance or continued participation in the Open Tryout Describe the direct impact on your ability to attend or remain at the Open Tryout.	
Anticipated and reasonable return-to-play date MM/DD/YYYY - enter the date you expect to be available for full competitive goalball participation.	
Expected availability after the return-to-play date Briefly identify any known limits on your availability for upcoming USA Goalball activities, or state none.	

2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Supporting Documentation and Athlete Declaration

3. Supporting Documentation

Attach documentation that verifies the circumstance and its effect on your ability to participate. For a communicable disease request, include relevant medical documentation for review and confirmation by the USA Goalball Head Team Physician. The Selection Committee may request additional documentation.

List every document attached to this request

Examples may include a funeral notice, travel or legal documentation, employer or school documentation, or relevant medical documentation.

4. Athlete Declaration and Acknowledgments

- I certify that the information in this request and all attachments is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I have submitted all supporting documentation currently available and agree to provide additional documentation requested by the applicable Selection Committee.
- I declare my intent to return to competitive goalball on or before the anticipated return-to-play date stated in this request.
- I understand that the applicable Selection Committee will determine whether the circumstance is valid and whether my previous performance and anticipated availability support continued involvement in the USA Goalball Competition Pool.
- I understand that approval is not automatic and that, if this request is denied and I do not attend the Open Tryout, I will be removed from consideration for the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool.
- I understand that this form and its attachments may be shared with the applicable Selection Committee and, when necessary for a communicable disease request, the USA Goalball Head Team Physician solely for review of this waiver request.

Athlete signature Type or sign name	Date MM/DD/YYYY
Parent or legal guardian name (required if athlete is a minor) Enter full name	Relationship to athlete Enter relationship
Parent or legal guardian signature Type or sign name	Date MM/DD/YYYY

5. For USABA Use Only

Date received MM/DD/YYYY	Request status upon receipt ☐ Complete ☐ Additional information needed
Date referred to Selection Committee MM/DD/YYYY	Date reviewed MM/DD/YYYY
Selection Committee decision ☐ Approved ☐ Denied	Date athlete notified MM/DD/YYYY
Decision rationale, conditions, or additional documentation required Enter a brief summary.	

2027-2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures

Final Audit Report

2026-08-04

Created:	2026-08-04
By:	Michael Holmes (mholmes@wieldwellbeing.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAjDrShd5SjaKt8gCGw2X_6kS184fjP2Xy

"2027-2028 USA Goalball Competition Pool Selection Procedures" History



Document created by Michael Holmes (mholmes@wieldwellbeing.com)

2026-08-04 - 1:29:16 PM GMT



Document emailed to John Kusu (john.altan.kusu@gmail.com) for signature

2026-08-04 - 1:29:22 PM GMT



Document emailed to Michael Holmes (mholmes@usaba.org) for signature

2026-08-04 - 1:29:22 PM GMT



Email viewed by Michael Holmes (mholmes@usaba.org)

2026-08-04 - 1:29:49 PM GMT



Email viewed by John Kusu (john.altan.kusu@gmail.com)

2026-08-04 - 1:30:05 PM GMT



Document e-signed by Michael Holmes (mholmes@usaba.org)

Signature Date: 2026-08-04 - 1:35:52 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: IMAGE



Document e-signed by John Kusu (john.altan.kusu@gmail.com)

Signature Date: 2026-08-04 - 1:54:06 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: MOBILE_DRAW



Agreement completed.

2026-08-04 - 1:54:06 PM GMT



Powered by
Adobe
Acrobat Sign