

**UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF BLIND ATHLETES (USABA)**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES**  
**GOALBALL**  
**December 11, 2019**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

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

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and/or Panam Sports Organization (Panam Sports) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the Panam Sports Constitution (Article 30.5-6)

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

Be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2020.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Must be a current member in good standing of the United States Association of Blind Athletes.
- Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.

- Athletes age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Athletes age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to complete the U.S. Center for Safesport’s online training.

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process

Men and Women:

- USABA Western Regional, January, Phoenix, AZ
- USABA Northwest Regional, February, Vancouver, WA
- USABA Midwest Regional, March, TBA
- USABA Northeast Regional, April, Westmont, NJ
- USABA Southeast Regional, May, Smyrna, GA
- USABA National Championships, June, Fort Wayne, IN
- National Team Training Camps (athletes to be invited, at a minimum, 30 days prior to the start of the camp).
- National Team Competitions (athletes to be invited, at a minimum, 30 days prior to the departure date for the competition).

1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

- USABA Regional Competitions are open registration to current USABA Members in good standing.
- Athletes will be invited by the respective Coaching Staff to Training Camps based on evaluation and performances at Regional Competitions or based on coaching evaluation of criteria listed in Section 2. Any athlete invited to Training Camps will be considered part of the respective “National Team Player Pool.”
- Athletes will be invited by the respective Coaching Staff to International competitions based on evaluations and performances at Training Camps and Regional Competitions and based on criteria listed in Section 2.

1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).

- For each team, a maximum of six athletes and up to two replacements will be selected.
- All athletes will be required to turn in weekly workout reports. These reports will be evaluated by the strength and conditioning coach as well as respective coaching staff. Under the direction of the strength and conditioning coach, any changes to the strength and conditioning program in the form of progressions, modifications, or accommodations may be based on current level of conditioning or Injury recovery/rehabilitation.

## 2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION CRITERIA

### 2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:

The sport of Goalball is not a measured or timed event. In the event of selection of athletes who will compete together as a Team, it is impossible to make selection decisions based solely on objective criteria. USABA believes the selection criteria outlined below, which includes subjective components in the evaluation of performance and ability, will result in the selection of athletes to comprise the Team most capable of earning a gold medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

### 2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used:

In evaluating and selecting athletes, the following criteria will be considered:

- Physical Criteria:
  - Measurements from movement analysis (3DMAPS) on fundamental movement and chain reaction.
  - Results from Physical Testing:
    - Vertical Jump
    - Unilateral Long Jump
    - Kneeling med ball chest pass
    - 1minute Max Burpee
    - 1minute Max Push-up
    - 3 RM Back Squat
- Tactical Criteria:
  - Athlete statistics in the following areas will be collected and evaluated from video of training camps and tournament play:
    - Goals allowed
    - Blocking percentage (blocks/blocking opportunities)
    - Goals, scoring percentage (goals/total throws)
    - Penalties committed
    - Penalty shot block percentage
    - Penalty shot scoring percentage

- +/- (goals scored-goals)
- Psychological/Social Criteria:

These athlete traits are all evaluated to determine if a specific athlete can demonstrate the ability to succeed within the team philosophies, systems, concepts, and culture. All athletes in the National Team Player Pool are evaluated, both in and out of competition.

- TEAM PLAYER: Selfless in attitude towards team members both on & off the court. Will give everything for the success of their team-mates.
- ACCOUNTABILITY: On time to all events, turns in all required documents on time and in correct form. Demonstrates follow-through with coaches and teammates.
- GROWTH MINDSET: Open minded to new ideas and concepts
- WARRIOR MENTALITY: Copes with & bounces back from the lows of elite level sport, as well as remaining focused on the tasks still to be completed
- Thinks clearly under pressure
- SELF-REFLECTION: Demonstrates the ability to learn from previous experiences through self-reflection and self-awareness
- RESPECTFUL: On & off the field. On the field the athlete respects their opponents and respects the rules of the game. Athlete respects the competitor's code, to play with the desire, constructive attitude, and competitive spirit of the game of goalball. Athletes treat equipment, facilities, teammates, coaches, officials and all others with respect at all times. Leave meeting rooms, training venues, and other common areas better than they found it.
- INTEGRITY: The athlete attempts to do what's right no matter who's watching, even if the choice is unpopular or personally costly. The athlete does not engage in behavior that might cause division among players or staff. The athlete is mindful and cautious of remarks made to the media or others that may affect her teammates or the team overall.
- LEADERSHIP: Athletes positively influence their teammates, making them better and more productive.
- COACHABLE: The athlete should be open and embracing of new ideas as well as criticism. They are committed to placing the team's needs above her own and therefore selections will be made with the team's best interest in mind. The team comes first.

- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

Men's Review Committee:

- Men's Coaching Staff
- USABA Strength and Conditioning Coach
- At minimum, 20 % Athlete Representative

Women's Review Committee:

- Women's Coaching Staff
- USABA Strength and Conditioning Coach
- At minimum, 20% Athlete Representative

- 2.4. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but 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 the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the NGB/HPMO has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the NGB/HPMO may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the NGB/HPMO:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the NGB/HPMO CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB/HPMO. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB/HPMO, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.

- 3.1.4. Violation of the USABA Code of Conduct and Program Participant Agreement which may be found at: <https://www.usaba.org/join/>.
- 3.1.5. Re-classification of the athlete by the IPC/IBSA, such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the Team.
- 3.1.6. Removal by the IPC of the event, in which the athlete qualified for the Team, from the program of the 2020 Paralympic Games.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USABA Grievance and Complaint Procedures and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable NGB/HPMO Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Info/Athlete-Conduct>

<https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, Panam Sports, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USABA's SafeSport policies, as applicable.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

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

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

In the event an athlete is removed from either the Men's or Women's Goalball Team, a replacement athlete shall be recommended by the respective Coaching Staff to the respective Review Committee listed in Section 2.3. The selection shall be based upon criteria listed in Section 2. Priority consideration will be given to the 2 athletes named as replacements.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Provided that replacements are allowed by the Local Organizing Committee, in the event an athlete is removed from either the Men's or Women's Goalball Team, a replacement athlete shall be recommended by the respective Coaching Staff to the respective Review Committee listed in Section 2.3. The selection shall be based upon criteria listed in Section 2. Priority consideration will be given to the 2 athletes named as replacements.

## **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USABA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Paralympic Games and may be referenced via hyperlinks provided below:

USABA Code of Conduct and Program Participant Agreement: <https://www.usaba.org/join/>

## **7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USABA in the following locations:

7.1. NGB/HPMO Web site: [www.usaba.org](http://www.usaba.org)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

7.2. Other: Not applicable.

## **8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

- July 10, 2020

## **9. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, 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 IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

#### **10. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- Jake Czechowski, Head Coach, USA Women's Goalball Team
- Keith Young, Head Coach, USA Men's Goalball Team
- EJ Whitney, USABA Strength & Conditioning Coach
- Mark Lucas, USABA Executive Director
- Matt Simpson, Athlete Rep

#### **11. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USABA Grievance and Compliant Procedures and Bylaws can be found at: [usaba.org](http://usaba.org)

#### **12. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or IBSA rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or IBSA rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USABA. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

#### **13. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**


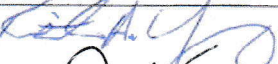
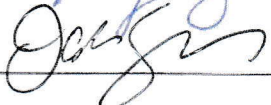
Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USABA may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)
- <http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>



**14. NGB/HPMO SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PAG/PPAG only) and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USABA.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB/HPMO President or CEO/Executive Director	Mark A. Lucas		12/11/19
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Keith A. Yang		12/12/19
	Jacob W. Crechowski		12/12/19
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Matt Simpson	Accepted Via Email (See next page)	12/20/19

\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/HPMO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the NGB/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

**From:** [Matt Simpson](#)  
**To:** [Katie Baker](#)  
**Cc:** [Justin Miller](#); [Jake Czechowski](#); [Keith Young](#); [Mark Lucas](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Athlete Selection Criteria - Sign Off  
**Date:** Friday, December 20, 2019 12:50:45 PM

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Hey Katie, sorry I didn't realize you were waiting on me, thought my earlier acknowledgement was sufficient. I have reviewed the procedures and the document looks good to me.

Thanks,  
Matt

Sent from my iPhone