



**U.S ASSOCIATION OF BLIND ATHLETES (USABA)  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2023 PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES  
PARA GOALBALL**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2023 Parapan American Games (the Games) team (the 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 Paralympic Committee (IPC) and/or Americas Paralympic Committee (APC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in 2023 Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the 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 IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1).

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

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athletes must:

1. be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2024 or later\*

\*In relation to criterion 1 above, NPCs are permitted to provisionally select athletes with a Sport Class Status of (i) New; (ii) Review; and (iii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2023 or earlier, subject to such athletes attending an Evaluation Session prior to or during the Games (including any required in-competition Observation Assessment).



1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Must be a current member in good standing of USABA.
- Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Athletes aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Athletes aged 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- At the time of selection, an athlete must have an IBSA International Classification with an international sport class status of R-Reivew, FRD-Fixed Review Date or C-Confirmed, or if there has been no opportunity for the athlete to undergo international classification evaluation, the athlete must be evaluated by USABA medical and/or Paralympic staff and determined likely to classify in the sport class in which he/she would be qualified for the Team; provided that athletes without an international sport class status are allowable for submission on the official team entry into this competition. A description of sport-specific classification requirements and current athlete sport class status can be found at: <https://goalball.sport/about-goalball/rules-and-downloads/>

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:

- 2023 USABA Western Qualifier, January 20-22 / Phoenix, AZ
- 2023 USABA Northwest Qualifier, February 3-5 / Vancouver, WA
- 2023 USABA Northeast Qualifier, April 14-16 / Westmont, NJ
- 2023 USABA Southeast Qualifier, June 2-4 / Smyrna, GA
- 2023 USABA Southern Qualifier, TBA June / Nashville, TN
- 2023 USABA National Championships, September 22-24/ Fort Wayne, IN
- 2023 National Team Training Camps (athletes to be invited, at a minimum, 30 days prior to the start of the camp).
- 2023 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.”
- 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 will be selected by the Men’s or Women’s Selection Committee and evaluated based on the criteria in Section 2 and placed onto the Men’s or Women’s Games team
- All Games team 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 2023 Parapan American 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
    - 1-minute Max Burpee
    - 1-minute Max Push-up
    - 3 RM Back Squat
- Tactical/Technical Criteria:
  - Athlete statistics in the following areas will be collected and evaluated from video of training camps and tournament play:
    - Goals allowed
    - Adjusted 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 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 Selection Committee:

- USABA Men's Head Coach
- USABA Director, Sport Performance
- At minimum, 33% Athlete Representative

Women's Selection Committee:

- USABA Women's Head Coach
- USABA Director, Sport Performance
- At minimum, 33% 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 may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the NGB:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the NGB 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, 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: [www.usaba.org/join/](http://www.usaba.org/join/)
- 3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1 of these selection procedures
- 3.1.6. Removal by the IPC/IBSA of the event in which the athlete qualified for the team from the medal event program of the Games.
- 3.1.7. Change in the athlete's sport class(es) following team selection, such that:
  - the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team; and/or
  - the athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IPC/IBSA

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 USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable NGB/PSO Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply, contained in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms. The USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific



to each Games and made available during the Games registration process; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the Delegation Terms. See "Delegation Events" at <https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Dispute-Resolution> for more information.

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, APC, 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:

At the same time the Games team is selected, the intent is to also select 2 replacements to each respective team. The selection of the replacement athletes shall be based upon criteria in Section 2. The rationale for the two replacements to be named early is due to the training requirements needed, by the replacement athletes, to be ready should they be named to the Games team as outlined in Section 3.

In the event a Games team athlete is removed from either the Men's or Women's Team (as outlined in section 3), one of the replacement shall be named to the Games team as decided by the respective Selection Committee.

In the event additional replacement(s) is required, the respective Selection Committee shall name additional athletes based on criteria in Section 2.

All replacement 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. It is the intent of these weekly reports to ensure the replacement athletes are adequately training in case they get named to the Games team.



- 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 Games Team, a replacement athlete, nominated per Section 4.1.1., shall be recommended by the respective Selection Committee. The selection shall be based upon criteria listed in Section 2.

## 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 Games and may be referenced via hyperlinks provided below:

USABA Code of Conduct and Program Participant Agreement: [usaba.org/join/](https://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 Web site: [usaba.org](https://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:

- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

## 9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

The USABA will make every effort to give as much notice as possible as to when any mandatory training camps will occur for preparation for the 2023 Parapan American Games, with no less than a 30 days prior notice to the camp start date. It is anticipated that a minimum of one preparatory camp between the selection of the Men's and Women's Teams and the start of the 2023 Parapan American Games will occur.

## 10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

## 11. 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
- Molly Quinn, USABA Chief Executive Officer
- Eliana Mason, Athlete Rep

## 12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USABA Grievance and Compliant Procedures and Bylaws can be found at:  
<https://www.usaba.org/about/governance-financials/>

## 13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IPC, APC as applicable, and/or IBSA rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, APC, 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.

**14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

The Athlete Ombudsman provides cost-free, independent, and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and USABA.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)
- Website [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

**15. 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 Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USABA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USABA CEO	Molly Quinn		
USABA Men's High Performance Manager / National Team Head Coach	Keith Young	Keith A. Young - Approved	1/10/23
USABA Women's High Performance Manager / National Team Head Coach	Jake Czechowski	Jacob Czechowski - Approved	1/11/23
USABA Athlete Representative	Eliana Mason		1/13/23

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

\* Signature by the USABA Athletes' 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, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to the USABA Chief Executive Officer.