

U.S. ASSOCIATION OF BLIND ATHLETES  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES  
USA GOALBALL  
October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2024 Paralympic Games Team (the Team):

1.1.0. 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 2024 Paralympic Games (the Games).

1.1.1. Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC), standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Paralympic 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).

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

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athletes must 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 2025 or later.

Link to the IPC Qualification Regulations can be found here:

<https://www.paralympic.org/paris-2024/qualification-regulations>

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- Athlete must be a member in good standing of USABA at the time of nomination.
- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).

- Any athlete age 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](#).

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

| DATE(S)                          | DESCRIPTION  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| February 15, 2024 -July 1, 2024* | Men’s Camps and Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Team Camps held in Fort Wayne, Indiana</li> <li>• Talent ID camps held in Fort Wayne, Indiana</li> </ul> Women’s Camps and Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Team Camps held in Fort Wayne, Indiana</li> <li>• Talent ID Camps held in Fort Wayne, Indiana</li> </ul> *Exact dates and locations for all Camps will be posted on USABA’s website ( <a href="http://www.usaba.org">www.usaba.org</a> ) no later than 30 days before the start of each Camp. |

1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1.:

Athletes are eligible for events listed in 1.2.1 by the following ways:

1. Athletes who meet the 2024 USA Goalball National Team Programs criteria in Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 by July 1, 2024 will be invited to the respective Men’s or Women’s National Team Camps.
2. Athletes who meet the USA Goalball Development Training Pool criteria by July 1, 2024 will be invited to the respective Men’s or Women’s Talent ID Camps

The 2024 National Team Criteria (*to posted by on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023*), and USABA Development Training Pool Criteria documents referenced immediately above can be found on the USABA website <https://www.usaba.org/>.

1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

Allocation of Qualification Slots:

- The qualification slot is allocated to the NPC not to the team or any individual athlete.

Maximum Quota Allocation per NPC:

- An NPC can qualify no more than one (1) men’s team and one (1) women’s team, comprising a total of six (6) male and six (6) female qualification slots.

Maximum Entry per NPC:

- An NPC can enter a maximum of six (6) eligible male athletes for the men's tournament and a maximum of six (6) eligible female athletes for the women's tournament.

A link to the full IPC Qualification Regulations can be found here:

<https://www.paralympic.org/paris-2024/qualification-regulations>

### 1.3.2. Selection Process

At the 2024 U.S. Men's/Women's National Team Camps and 2024 U.S. Men's/Women's Talent Identification (ID) Camps listed in Section 1.2. above, athletes will participate in drills and scrimmages that will give them a chance to demonstrate their individual fundamental skills and ability to play within the applicable team's playing system. Athletes will be evaluated by the USABA Men's and Women's Section Committees on the specific skills and attributes listed in **Attachment A**.

Once all tryout events and camps as defined in Section 1.2. are concluded, the respective USABA Selection Committees, as defined in Section 2.3, will nominate athletes to the Team using the discretionary criteria outlined in Section 2.

In addition to nominating six (6) male and six (6) female athletes to the Team, the Men's and Women's Selection Committees may also nominate up to two (2) replacement athletes to each respective Team. The nomination of the replacement athletes shall be based upon the discretionary selection criteria listed below.

Athletes will be nominated by the nomination deadline as stated in Section 8.

## 2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

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

Recognizing that a Team is more than the skills brought by its individual players, objective standards alone are not sufficient in evaluating athletes and building a competitive men's or women's goalball team at the international level.

USABA will assemble a Team utilizing USABA and USOPC approved policies and procedures, including those included herein, that consists of players that compose the best team, not necessarily the best individual talents, and who are willing to make the commitment to participate to the fullest extent required by USABA.

The respective USABA Men's and Women's Selection Committees (Section 2.3) will evaluate and recommend athletes to be nominated to the Team via discretionary criteria, in order to field the strongest, most sound, and medal capable team for the Games.

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

The USABA Men's and Women's Selection Committees will consider the mix of players in terms of positions, skills, attributes, experience, match-up vs international opponents, Team needs, and player qualities beyond technical skills that contribute to the overall Team's success. The Selection Committees will evaluate players during the National Team Camps and Talent ID Camps on the specific skills and attributes listed in **Attachment A**.

The Men's and Women's Selection Committees may consider the following factors (listed in no particular order):

- Teamwork: The willingness to accept a role that leads to Team success.
- Positive Attitude: Exhibiting enthusiasm and support of teammates.
- Versatility: Exhibiting a balance between offensive and defensive skills as well as the ability to play multiple positions and fulfill multiple roles.
- Maturity: Exhibiting an ability to adjust to various situations and dealing with adversity. Adjusting to situations that are not going well and reacting appropriately.
- Coachability: Exhibiting the ability to process and incorporate input from the coaching staff.
- Experience: Number of years on the team and number of matches played.

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

- Men's Selection Committee:
  - USABA Men's Head Coach
  - USABA Director Sport Performance
  - Athlete Representative
- Women's Selection Committee:
  - USABA Women's Head Coach
  - USABA Director Sport Performance
  - 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 USABA Men's and Women's Selection Committees must comply with USABA's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USABA ethics committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to USABA's ethics 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, USABA's ethics 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 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's ethics 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 USABA selection committee appointment process.

### 3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to submitting athlete entries by name to the USOPC, the USABA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to USABA CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. 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 the USABA, his/her injury will be assumed to be debilitating 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 at this link: <https://www.usaba.org/about/governance-financials/>
- 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/IF 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:
  - 3.1.7.1. the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team; and/or
  - 3.1.7.2. the athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IPC/IF.
- 3.1.8. Failure to submit Annual Performance Plan and monthly progress reports as required by Section 9 of these procedures.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USABA's Bylaws (<https://www.usaba.org/about/governance-financials/>) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the Local Organizing Committee, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USABA 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.usopc.org/governance/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, WADA, IBSA, 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 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:

Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, an athlete who was nominated as a replacement athlete (Section 1.3) will fill the athlete vacancy. If more than one replacement athlete per gender was nominated by the Men's and Women's Selection Committees (Section 2.3), the applicable Selection Committee will determine which nominated replacement athlete will fill the athlete vacancy.

- In the event that an athlete vacancy cannot be filled by a nominated replacement athlete, the applicable Selection Committee may nominate a replacement athlete based on the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 2.3.

- 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, athlete vacancies will be filled following the process outlined in Section 4.1.1.

- 4.1.3 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 1.1. Additionally, all replacement athletes must submit an Annual Performance Plan and monthly progress reports detailing their personal training goals and progress towards those goals.

## 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 Delegation Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Team (include as attachments or provide links):

- USABA Code of Conduct: <https://www.usaba.org/about/governance-financials/>

## 7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

- 7.1. USABA Website: [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.

## 8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: July 19, 2024

## 9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

Athletes nominated to the Team will be required to complete an annual Athlete Performance Plan as well as a monthly progress report detailing their personal training goals and progress towards those

goals. Within thirty (30) days of their nomination, athletes will receive information on how to submit their Athlete Performance Plan if they do not already have one on file.

It is anticipated that a minimum of one preparatory camp between the nomination of the Men's and Women's Teams and the start of the 2024 Paralympic Games will occur. The USABA will make every effort to give as much notice as possible as to the date and location of all mandatory training camps. However, the date and location of the camp(s) will be posted to the USABA website ([www.usaba.org](http://www.usaba.org)) a minimum of thirty (30) days before the start of each camp.

While waivers for any mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, waivers will be granted only for illness, injury or other incapacity, or for personal/family emergency. All athletes nominated to the Team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations well in advance of Team activities. Requests for a waiver must be submitted in writing to the Director Sport Performance for review as far in advance as possible. A written response to all requests will be issued to the athlete within 72 hours of the request.

## 10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

## 11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- Amanda Duke Boulet, USABA Director Sport Performance
- Jake Czechowski, Head Coach, USA Women's Goalball Team
- Keith Young, Head Coach, USA Men's Goalball Team
- Molly Quinn, USABA Chief Executive Officer
- Eliana Mason, Athlete Rep
- Tyler Merren, Athlete Rep

## 12. USABA BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USABA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

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

## 13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IPC and/or IBSA rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC 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 the USABA. However, the selection criteria 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 may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

#### 14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office 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 their NGB/PSO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: <https://www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds>

#### 15. USABA 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 the USABA.

| Position  | Print Name         | Signature  | Date       |
|---|--------------------|--|------------|
| USABA Chief Executive Officer                         | Molly Quinn        | <b>APPROVED</b><br><i>By Margaret Quinn at 1:26 pm, Oct 24, 2023</i> |            |
| Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director | Amanda Duke Boulet | <i>Amanda Duke Boulet</i>  | 10/23/2023 |
| USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*      | Eliana Mason       | <i>Eliana Mason</i>  | 10/23/2023 |

\* 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/PSO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

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

## Attachment A – USA Goalball Skills and Attributes

### **Offensive:**

- Throwing Power
- Throwing Accuracy
- Throwing Velocity
- Throwing Consistency
- Penalty Shot Accuracy
- Reading Opponent
- Clean Hand Off
- Throw Types
  - Straight
  - Spin
  - Quick pitch

### **Game Tactics:**

- Court Awareness
- Teammate Awareness
- Reading Opposing Team
- Listening to Coach Call
- Following Coach Game Tactics

### **Defensive:**

- Blocking Reaction Time
- Blocking Movement Time
- Blocking Range Laterally
- Blocking Range Vertically
- Smooth Block Form
- Shifting
- Defensive Cover
- Penalty Block Accuracy
- Loose Ball Chase

### **Performance Services:**

- Concentration
- Goal Setting
- High Performance Under Pressure
- Nutrition and hydration habits
- Sleep quality and duration
- Core stability
- Power
- Strength
- Explosiveness
- Mobility
- Anaerobic Endurance
- Aerobic Endurance