

## 2027/2028 Open Tryout Event Testing Criteria

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**These are Preliminary Criteria and Subject to Change prior to Final Posting**

### **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 passport upon selection to the 2027/2028 USA Goalball National Team & Prospect Pool.
- Athlete must be eligible to represent Team USA in 2027 and 2028.
  - If the athlete previously represented another country in an IBSA sanctioned event, the athlete must contact Vito Villa (US Goalball Team and Performance Coordinator) prior to the Tryout Event.

**2. International Federation Requirements:**

- Athlete must be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of "Confirmed" or "Review with a Fixed Review Date" or have a current eligible classification as determined by USABA or be eligible to be seen by a classification panel in 2027 or 2028.
- Athletes, who do not have a current international sport class status, must be eligible to be seen by a classification panel in 2027 or 2028. To be eligible, athletes must be selected to the 2027 ParaPan American Team or the 2028 Paralympic Games team. The athletes must provide a Medical Diagnostic Form, not older than 12 months at the time of classification.
- Athlete must be eligible to be licensed IBSA through the ISAS administrative system.

**3. Medical/Classification Requirements:**

- Athlete must provide a completed sport physical examination clearing them for high-performance participation.
- Athlete must meet the minimum eligibility criteria for IBSA classification or demonstrate the ability to be classified.
- Athlete must provide documentation from a licensed eye care professional outlining:
  - Visual acuity
  - Diagnosis
  - Visual field restrictions (if applicable)

**4. Additional Requirements:**

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- Athlete must have an active USABA membership in good standing.
- Athlete must demonstrate active 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.
- Athlete must comply with the USABA Background Check Policy.
- Athlete must comply with the [USABA Code of Conduct](#)
- Athlete must comply with the [USABA SafeSport Policy](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) including education and training requirements.
- Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Event.
- Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Event.
- 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 National Team system.
- Athlete must acknowledge responsibility for all costs associated with participation in the Open Tryouts, including travel, lodging, meals, and local transportation.

### TRYOUT DATES/LOCATION

The 2027/2028 USA Goalball Open Tryouts will be conducted for the purpose of evaluating athletes for the 2027/2028 USA Goalball National Team and Prospect 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 Event will be hosted at the United States Olympic & Paralympic Training |                     |

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| Center in Colorado Springs, CO |
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### Evaluation Criteria

For 2027/2028, USABA and USA Goalball are intending to increase the use of data supported decisions, alongside coaching discretion, to select the best athletes at the 2027 USA Goalball National Team Tryout to fill our USA Goalball National Teams. Using objective tests to measure technical skills, athleticism, tactical understanding, and mental strength, the aim of the 2027/2028 USA Open Tryout Testing Criteria is to assess all eligible attendees fairly. After gathering the results of all Tryout Attendees, the Selection Committee will review the overall scores from the Tryouts Testing Criteria, while keeping in mind positional needs and team fit, for selecting the 2027/2028 USA Goalball National Team and Prospect Pool.

A minimum score of **81 points** is recommended for **USA Goalball National Team Selection**, and a minimum score of **70 points** is recommended for the **Prospect Pool**, but will not serve as the sole determinant of athlete nomination. There are in some areas of the testing specific numbers participants must achieve. If an athlete does not meet the minimum scores in some areas, they will automatically be ineligible for the National Team consideration. After the Selection Committee reviews all total scores, the 2027/2028 USA Goalball Program will consist of **six (6) National Team Athletes per team**, and **six (6) Prospect Pool Athletes per team** who can attend National Team camps upon coaches' requests and availability at the USOPTC.

During the 2027/2028 USA Goalball National Team Tryouts, the following evaluation criteria will be applied:

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### ***Technical Skills (Max. 40 points)***

- **Throwing Power & Accuracy (Max. 10 points)**
  - (5 pts) IN GAME SCORING ABILITY - Wings should achieve at least a 5 % scoring ability (relation between total number of throws and goals scored) for National Team consideration. Centers are not evaluated with a recommended

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minimum scoring output, due to their mostly primary defensive role. Throws will be evaluated in this section on their throwing speed, types of throws and top-spin of the ball.

- (5 pts) ACCURACY DRILL - Each athlete will have 12 minutes to hit each of the shots listed below. The maximum number of attempts per shot is three (3), or if the athlete runs out of time.
  - Regulations
    - A player has a maximum of 12 minutes (running clock) to hit all shots
    - A player has to throw three (3) attempts for all shots listed, for a total of 30 throws
    - Each shot recorded will be taken into account for a percentage.
    - Athletes have to start on left wing with the first shot (1 – 1). For every throw, the ball will be dropped on the wing-line. With the start of the throws from the 6, the ball will be dropped on the right wing-line.
    - Athletes must do the throws in the listed order.
    - The target zones are measured on the **FRONT LINE** (also known as “team line”). On the throws 3 - 1 and 7 – 9, the ball is allowed to cross the 2 (for 3 – 1) or 8 (for 7 – 9) outside of the wing hash, due to the angle of the throw.
    - Any ball thrown out counts as a missed shot. The same applies to balls hitting the post and not going into the goal.
    - Athletes must achieve at least an accuracy of **35%** to be considered for the National Team.
    - Over 65% 5 points, over 60% 4.5 points, over 55% 4 points, over 50% 3 points, over 45% 2 points, over 40% 1 point, over 35% 0.5 points, under 35% 0 points
  - List of shots:
    - 1 – 1
    - 1 – 3
    - 3 - 1
    - 3 – 3
    - 4 – 6
    - 6 – 4
    - 7 – 7

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- 7 – 9
  - 9 – 7
  - 9 – 9
- **Defensive Performance in Game (Max. 10 points)**
  - (10 pts) IN GAME BLOCKING: How many balls blocked, how many goals given up, simple calculation. Penalties will not be included in this calculation.
    - Over 90% blocks 10 points, over 85% 9 points, over 80% 8 points, over 75% 7 points, over 70% 6 points, etc.
    - Athletes must play in the primary defensive system of the respective national team, currently Front Line for both teams.
    - Athletes not playing in the current national team system during the tryouts, can't be evaluated and therefore receive a score of 0.
    - Athletes must achieve a minimum blocking percentage of **70 %** (or 6 points) to be considered for the National Team.
- **Sweeping Drill ONE SESSION ONLY (Max. 5 points)**
  - Every wing MUST sweep a minimum of 5 times in this session (2 left to right, 2 right to left, and 1 more to either side of the athlete's choice)
  - Centers MUST move a minimum of 5 times in this session (2 center to right post, 2 center to left post, and 1 more to either side of the athlete's choice)
  - All positions will be evaluated on effectiveness of their movement and defensive liability when getting back their spot.
  - All athletes start with the full 5pts (1 point per sweep) and will lose points if the following things happen during their sweeps:
    - - 0.5 pt
      - Not throwing out of the gap (3-4 or 6-7) for a WING
      - Not throwing from the post (1-2 or 8-9) for a CENTER
      - A long pause at the crossbar to gain orientation, before the throw starts (a long pause is defined as 2 seconds or longer)
      - Players need more than 5 sec after the ball release to rainbow back to their primary position and being back in their set-up form
      - Throwing the ball out of bounds.
    - - 1 pt
      - Running into a teammate

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- 10 sec penalties
- Touching the goal to gain orientation after the player did rainbow back
- For every sweep you did not do in this session

*\*NOTE: Every other sweep in games will be evaluated in the Tactical portion of the Tryout Testing Criteria\*\**

- **Ball Control & Passing RUBRIC (Max. 5 points)**
  - Does the player absorb the ball after a block (huge benefit).
  - Are bounce passes going to the team members (own-goal risk).
  - Clean hand-offs.
  - Fast ball chasing.

| Points                       | Description                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5 – Excellent</b>         | Fully blocks and consistently traps the ball, very rarely causes a ball over. When needed, great decision-making with ball distribution at a quick rate. |
| <b>4 – Good</b>              | Mostly blocks and collects the ball. Passes correctly with minor mistakes or occasional delays in ball distribution.                                     |
| <b>3 – Satisfactory</b>      | Occasionally traps the ball and minor form breaks. Understands the options but applies ball distribution inconsistently or hesitantly.                   |
| <b>2 – Needs Improvement</b> | Struggles to maintain possession, frequent loose blocks. Slow and frequent errors in decision-making.                                                    |
| <b>1 – Poor</b>              | Disregards defensive system and form breaks lead to multiple loose blocks. Consistent errors and balls over.                                             |
| <b>0 – Missing</b>           | No attempt to implement ball control or tactical instructions.                                                                                           |

- **Offense-Defense-Relation IN GAME ONLY (Max. 5 points)**

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- Goals scored in a game setting will be given as a +1
- Goals given up will be a -1
- After all game plays have been recorded, an overall score will be given to the athlete.
  - *If the result is positive, athletes achieve 5 points*
  - *If the result is neutral or zero (0) athletes achieve 2.5 points*
  - *If the result is negative, athletes achieve 0 points*

### Penalties (Max. 5 points)

- Every game will end with a penalty shootout, where each athlete has to throw once and defend once. The order will be determined by the teams themselves.
- Players can achieve points as follows:
  - *Offense (3 points)*
    - 3 points for scoring more than 60 %
    - 2 points for scoring more than 50 %
    - 1 point for scoring more than 40 %
    - 0 points for scoring less than 40 %
  - *Defense (2 points)*
    - 2 points 50 % and more blocking (out and penalty throws count in favor of the defender)
    - 1 point 40 % blocking
    - 0 points under 40 % blocking

### Athletic Skills (Max. 25 points)

- Endurance (Max. 10 points)
  - Cooper's Treadmill Test - Estimated VO2 Max (5 Points)
    - Male**
      - Poor (<1.25 miles) (1 Point)
      - Below Average (1.26 miles- 1.5 miles) (2 Points)
      - Average (1.6 miles- 1.75 miles) (3 Points)
      - Good (1.76 miles- 2 miles) (4 Points)
      - Elite (2+ miles) (5 Points)

#### **Female**



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- Poor (<1 mile) (1 Point)
- Below Average (1 mile- 1.25 miles) (2 Points)
- Average (1.26 miles- 1.5 miles) (3 Points)
- Good (1.6 miles- 1.75 miles) (4 Points)
- Elite (1.75+ miles) (5 Points)

*NOTES: Athletes may use the handles for orientation purposes only.*

- Beep Test – On-court specific endurance **(5 Points)**

**NOTE:** The test is conducted in the following order: the athlete has to set up on the front line hash, after the beep sound, they must do a full diving motion (elbows and knees extended), get up and get to the highball line, backpaddle to the goal and get back into their set-up form on the front line.

Athletes not back in time before the next audible signal will get a first warning, as well as missing the highball line as one of the markers, after the second warning the test for the athlete is over. The score the athlete was eliminated on is the score recorded.

*The test is conducted without eyeshades.*

**The minimum target for National Team or Prospect Pool consideration is level 11\_10**

- Level 15\_10 to 12\_1 = 0 pts
- Level 11\_10 to 11\_1 = 1 pt
- Level 10\_10 to 10\_1 = 2 pts
- Level 9\_10 to 9\_6 = 3 pts
- Level 9\_5 to 9\_1 = 4 pts
- Level 8\_10 and better = 5 pts

- Strength **(Max. 15 points)**

- BB Back Squat (3 rep max)(5 Points)



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- Poor (.6-1.0 X Bodyweight) **(1 Point)**
- Below Average (1.0-1.25 X Bodyweight) **(2 Points)**
- Average (1.25-1.5 X Bodyweight) **(3 Points)**
- Above Average (1.5-2.0 X Bodyweight) **(4 Points)**
- Elite (2.0+ X Bodyweight) **(5 Points)**

*NOTES: Athletes will be required to reach a minimum depth of at least 90 degrees. Form will be reviewed by an accredited Strength & Conditioning Coach during each rep.*

○ Pull-Ups (5 Points)

**Male**

- Poor (0-5 reps) **(1 Point)**
- Below Average (6-10 reps) **(2 Points)**
- Average (11-15 reps) **(3 Points)**
- Above Average (16-20 reps) **(4 Points)**
- Elite (21+ reps) **(5 Points)**

**Female**

- Poor (0-2 reps) **(1 Point)**
- Below Average (3-6 reps) **(2 Points)**
- Average (7-12 reps) **(3 Points)**
- Above Average (13-18 reps) **(4 Points)**
- Elite (19+ reps) **(5 Points)**

*NOTES: Athletes will be required to complete traditional pull-ups (palms facing away from the body) and their chin must be over the bar to complete the rep. Elbows must be fully extended at the bottom of their rep. Athletes can have bent knees during their reps, however, there can be no swinging or kipping pull-ups (ie. using momentum to assist each rep). Athletes will not be allowed any hand treatment during the pull-ups, including but not limited to chalk, gloves or any covering on the bar. Form will be reviewed by an accredited Strength & Conditioning Coach during each rep.*

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- Caliper Grip Test (5 points)

### **OFFICIAL POINT ALLOCATION AND CONDUCTION TBD**

#### ***Tactical Understanding (Max. 20 points)***

- (10 pts) Adaptability of Game Situations & Reading the Game RUBRIC

#### ***Adaptability of Game Situations & Reading the Game (10 pts)***

| Points                | Evaluator's Assessment Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10 – Excellent</b> | The player consistently demonstrates exceptional defensive positioning, maintaining awareness of opponents, space, and team shape. Adapts seamlessly to changing game situations, making intelligent adjustments with precision and anticipation. |
| <b>8 – Strong</b>     | The player shows solid defensive awareness and positioning in most scenarios. Adapts well to dynamic play and recognizes tactical shifts with minimal hesitation. Minor positional lapses may occur under pressure.                               |
| <b>6 – Good</b>       | The player maintains acceptable positioning and shows a general understanding of defensive structure. Adaptability is adequate but occasionally delayed when responding to fast-changing game dynamics.                                           |
| <b>4 – Developing</b> | The player's positioning is inconsistent, often leaving gaps or being drawn out of shape. Struggles to adapt quickly to evolving game situations and may require frequent guidance or correction.                                                 |

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| Points                               | Evaluator's Assessment Description                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2 – Needs Improvement</b>         | The player displays poor defensive positioning and minimal awareness of tactical shape. Rarely adapts effectively to game changes, leading to defensive vulnerabilities. |
| <b>0 – No Observable Performance</b> | No clear evidence of defensive positioning or adaptability. The player's engagement or participation in defensive phases is minimal or absent.                           |

- (5 pts) Communication, Leadership & Teamwork *RUBRIC*

### Communication & Teamwork (5 pts)

| Points                       | Description                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5 – Excellent</b>         | Consistently communicates clearly and effectively with teammates and coaches. Demonstrates strong teamwork, supports others, and maintains positive collaboration throughout. |
| <b>4 – Good</b>              | Communicates well most of the time and contributes positively to team dynamics. Minor lapses in communication or cooperation.                                                 |
| <b>3 – Satisfactory</b>      | Basic communication and teamwork are present but inconsistent. Occasionally disengaged or unclear in interactions.                                                            |
| <b>2 – Needs Improvement</b> | Rarely communicates or collaborates effectively. Limited contribution to team cohesion or understanding.                                                                      |
| <b>1 – Poor</b>              | Shows little to no communication or teamwork; may cause confusion or disrupt team efforts.                                                                                    |

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### Points Description

|                    |                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>0 – Missing</b> | No observable communication or teamwork effort. |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|

- (5 pts) Implementation of Coaches' Tactical Instructions RUBRIC

### Implementation of Coaches' Tactical Instructions (5 pts)

### Points Description

|                              |                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5 – Excellent</b>         | Fully understands and applies all tactical instructions accurately during play. Consistently aligns decisions and movements with the coach's game plan. |
| <b>4 – Good</b>              | Applies most tactical instructions correctly with minor mistakes or occasional lapses in execution.                                                     |
| <b>3 – Satisfactory</b>      | Understands the tactics but applies them inconsistently or hesitantly. Some key instructions missed.                                                    |
| <b>2 – Needs Improvement</b> | Struggles to follow tactical directions; frequent errors in positioning or decision-making.                                                             |
| <b>1 – Poor</b>              | Disregards or fails to understand tactical instructions; plays with little connection to the coach's strategy.                                          |
| <b>0 – Missing</b>           | No attempt to implement tactical instructions.                                                                                                          |

### Mental Strength (Max. 15 points)

- Stress Resistance (Max. 5 points)
- **Stress Resistance**

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| Points                       | Evaluator's Discretion Description                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5 – Excellent</b>         | At the evaluator's discretion, the player consistently maintains composure under pressure, showing calm decision-making and emotional control in all game situations. |
| <b>4 – Good</b>              | The player generally handles stressful moments well, maintaining focus with only brief lapses in composure or concentration.                                          |
| <b>3 – Satisfactory</b>      | The player shows moderate stress resistance, but performance may fluctuate in tense or high-pressure scenarios.                                                       |
| <b>2 – Needs Improvement</b> | The player struggles to manage emotions or decision-making under pressure, leading to visible performance drops.                                                      |
| <b>1 – Poor</b>              | The player displays little control under stress, frequently losing focus or composure.                                                                                |
| <b>0 – Missing</b>           | No discernible stressful situations were encountered or insufficient observation to assess.                                                                           |

- Willingness to Learn & Discipline (Max. 5 points)

### **Willingness to Learn & Discipline**

| Points               | Evaluator's Discretion Description                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5 – Excellent</b> | At the evaluator's discretion, the player demonstrates a strong willingness to learn, consistently applies feedback, and exhibits excellent discipline on and off the court. |
| <b>4 – Good</b>      | The player is receptive to coaching and maintains good discipline, though occasional reminders may be needed.                                                                |

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| Points                       | Evaluator's Discretion Description                                                                            |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3 – Satisfactory</b>      | The player shows some openness to learning but inconsistently applies feedback or displays uneven discipline. |
| <b>2 – Needs Improvement</b> | The player shows limited receptiveness to coaching and struggles to maintain discipline consistently.         |
| <b>1 – Poor</b>              | The player resists feedback and demonstrates poor discipline, affecting performance and development.          |
| <b>0 – Missing</b>           | Insufficient opportunity to evaluate learning attitude or discipline.                                         |

- Respectful Behavior On-and-Off the Court (Max. 5 points)

### Respectful Behavior On-and-Off the Court

| Points                       | Evaluator's Discretion Description                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5 – Excellent</b>         | At the evaluator's discretion, the player consistently exhibits respect toward coaches, teammates, referees, and opponents both on and off the court. A strong role model in conduct. |
| <b>4 – Good</b>              | The player is generally respectful and courteous, with only occasional minor lapses in tone or behavior.                                                                              |
| <b>3 – Satisfactory</b>      | The player usually maintains respect but may occasionally show frustration or inattentiveness.                                                                                        |
| <b>2 – Needs Improvement</b> | The player demonstrates inconsistent respect or professionalism, requiring reminders or intervention.                                                                                 |
| <b>1 – Poor</b>              | The player frequently displays disrespectful or unsportsmanlike behavior.                                                                                                             |
| <b>0 – Missing</b>           | Behavior not sufficiently observed to make an assessment.                                                                                                                             |

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***A minimum score of 81 points is recommended for USA Goalball National Team Selection, and a minimum score of 70 points is recommended for the Prospect Pool, but will not serve as the sole determinant of athlete nomination.***