

**USA HOCKEY**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2018 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES**  
**PARA ICE HOCKEY**  
**7/6/2017**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

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

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire prior to 19 October 2018.

1.1.2. 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).

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

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

- Be at least sixteen (16) years old by 1 January 2018; and
- Hold a valid WPIH Licence for the 2017/2018 season, and
- Be internationally classified with either a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after the 2017/2018 season.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

Athletes must be members in good standing with USA Hockey.

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.

USA Hockey will conduct an open USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team tryout on July 15-16, 2017. The sign-up forms to participate in the open tryout will appear on the USA Hockey website at: [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com).

- 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).

All national Team players as well as any other sled hockey players who meet the criteria outlined in Section 1.1.3 are eligible to attend this open tryout.

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

As a team sport, a variety of criteria, both objective and subjective, will be used to select the 2018 Paralympic Team. Attached is a USA Hockey Sled Team Individual Player Report form (Attachment A) used by USA Hockey for the selection process. Team chemistry is vital in determining the difference between success and failure and will be an important element in player selection.

The evaluation of players will include the use of the USA Hockey Individual Player Report form, as well as the following:

- Willingness to participate
- Availability to participate
- Playing ability/proficiency
- Playing position
- Coach ability
- Attitude
- Contribution to team chemistry
- Past international experience at World Championships and/or Paralympic Games

The Player Evaluation Committee, as outlined in Section 2.3, will select 15 players (13 players and 2 goaltenders) to compete on the National Team. National Team players will then continue to be evaluated at all camps and competitions between the date of the open USA Hockey National Sled Hockey

Team tryout in July 2017 and January 19, 2018, when nominations to the Paralympic Team must be submitted to the USOC. On or before January 19, 2018, the Player Evaluation Committee will select and nominate up to 17 players (15 players and 2 goaltenders) to the 2018 Paralympic Team. Preference will be given but not assured to athletes named to the 2017-18 National Para Ice Hockey Team.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

### **2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):**

The sport of sled hockey is not a measured or timed event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make selections based solely upon objective criteria. It is the belief of USA Hockey that considering a mix of selection criteria set forth above, which includes subjective components as well as objective statistical measures in evaluation of performance ability, will result in the selection of the best athletes who will work together as an effective team and contribute to team success.

### **2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):**

See Section 1.3.

### **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:**

#### Player Evaluation Committee

Manager, Ice & Incline Coaching Education Program

Head Coach

Athlete Representative

#### **2.3.1. 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 acceptance of nominations by the USOC, USA Hockey has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to USA Hockey's Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Hockey. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Hockey, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of USA Hockey's Code of Conduct (Attachment B).
- 3.1.4. Violation of the U.S. Anti-Doping Code or if the athlete is currently serving a USADA/WADA sanction.
- 3.1.5. Re-classification by the IPC such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him or 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 2018 Paralympic Games.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Hockey's Bylaws and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA Hockey Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www2.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Information.aspx>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

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

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

Replacement pool players will be made up of all athletes that attended the open USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team tryout in July 2017 as well as athletes that have competed in past Paralympic Games and or World Championships and met the criteria outlined in Section 1.1.

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

The players will be selected based on positional need by the criteria set forth in Section 1.3 with the selection made by the Player Evaluation Committee.

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

The players will be selected based on positional need by the criteria set forth in Section 1.3 with the selection made by the Player Evaluation Committee.

#### **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USA Hockey 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 USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Paralympic Games and are included as attachments:

USA Hockey's Code of Conduct (Attachment B)

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

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

7.1. NGB/PSO/HPMO Web site:

[www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com)

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

7.2. Other:

None

## **8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

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

January 19, 2018

## **9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

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

After the date of nomination, the players nominated to the 2018 Paralympic Para ICE Hockey Team will be required to participate in various camps and competitions leading up to the 2018 Winter Paralympic Games. The training and competition date(s) and location(s) will be posted on USA Hockey's website at least 30 days prior to the start of the camp or event.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

## **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

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

Dan Brennan – Director, Ice & Incline Coaching Education Program  
Guy Gosselin – Head Coach  
Kip St Germaine – Athlete Representative

## **12. NGB/PSO/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USA Hockey Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in the USA Hockey Annual Guide (pages 79-101) which is all available at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com).

## **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IPC, as applicable, and/or IPC rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, as applicable, and/or IPC rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Hockey. 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 USOC.

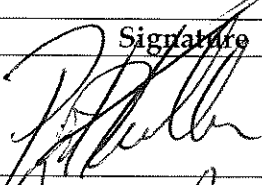
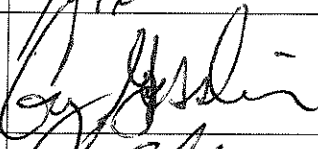
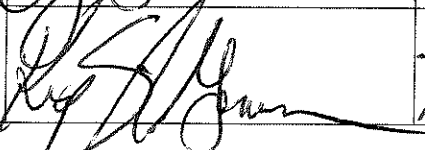
## **14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by U.S. Paralympics may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

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

## **15. NGB/PSO/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 USA Hockey.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB/PSO/HPMO President or CEO/Executive Director	Pat Kelleher		7-6-17
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Guy Gosselin		7-6-17
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Kip St Germaine		7-6-17

\* If the USOC 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/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 USOC AAC Representative, the NGB/PSO/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.



## Attachment A

### Individual Player Report

#### USA HOCKEY INDIVIDUAL PLAYER REPORT



Player's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Shot: L R

Evaluator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Where Evaluated: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Positional Ranking: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the following characteristics  
Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor, NR-Not Rated

Forwards & Defensemen	Excel.	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
1. Skating Ability					
2. Puck Handling Ability					
3. Puck Movement					
4. Playmaking Ability					
5. Hockey Sense					
6. Positional Play					
7. Scoring Ability					
8. Shot					
9. Defensive Ability					
10. Blocking Shots					
11. Aggressiveness					
12. Toughness					
13. Leadership, Attitude & Character					
14. Speed/Quickness					
15. Strength					
16. Conditioning					

Goalies	Excel.	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
1. Skating					
2. Playing Angles					
3. Glove Hand					
4. Use of Stick & Blocker					
5. Use of Skates & Legs					
6. Agility & Reflexes					
7. Lateral Movement					
8. Rebounds					
9. Leadership, Attitude & Character					
10. Speed/Quickness					
11. Strength					
12. Conditioning					

General Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did this player execute the skill, attitude and dedication to represent Team USA at this Competition?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Needs Direction \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION

<b>FORWARDS &amp; DEFENSEMEN</b>	
Skating Ability	Skating speed, acceleration, balance and agility. Lateral movement ability to turn in either direction. Skating backwards
Puck Handling Ability	Ability to control puck at various speeds and situations. Giving and receiving passes.
Moving the Puck	Passing, headmanning and playmaking ability.
Playmaking Ability	Ability to read and execute primary and secondary play.
Hockey Sense	Anticipation, adjustments to situations.
Positional Play	Ability to understand and to react to team situations.
Scoring Ability	Is player able to capitalize on scoring opportunities, accuracy, release of shots, skills on one on one, goalie situations.
Shot	Accuracy, velocity, variety.
Defensive & Checking Ability	Staying with check, protecting critical d-zone areas use of body in corners along boards and in front of net.
Blocking Shots	Courage, timing, success.
Aggressiveness	Hustle, enthusiasm.
Toughness	Physical play
Leadership, Attitude & Character	Disciplined athlete, attitude toward game, interaction with teammates. Leadership by example. Ability to spark a team. Performance under pressure. Off-ice demeanor.
Speed/Quickness	Ability to get away, past or to an area on the ice faster than opponent
Strength	Demonstrates elite levels of upper and lower body strength. On the ice effectively uses strength to battle for puck possession and dominate opponent.
Conditioning	Ability to sustain high-intensity bouts of work over extended periods of time (throughout a game)
<b>GOALIES</b>	
Skating	Balance and ability, movement, quickness.
Playing Angles	Limiting area of the net to the shooter.
Glove Hand	Catching ability.
Use of Stick & Blocker	Ability to control and clear shots, move puck.
Ability & Reflexes	Does player demonstrate exceptional quickness.

Lateral Movement	Ability to move in and around crease.
Rebounds	Control.
Leadership, Attitude & Character	Disciplined athlete, attitude toward game, interaction with teammates. Leadership by example. Ability to spark a team. Performance under pressure. Off-ice demeanor.
Speed/Quickness	Ability to get away, past or to an area on the ice faster than opponent
Strength	Demonstrates elite levels of upper and lower body strength. On the ice effectively uses strength to establish and maintain positions around the net.
Conditioning	Ability to maintain focus and posture, while executing technical movements with proficiency over extended periods of time (throughout a game)

## Attachment B

### USA Hockey Code of Conduct

#### ATHLETE PLEDGE

I pledge to uphold the spirit of the USA Hockey Code of Conduct (the “Code”), which offers a guide to my conduct as a member of the USA National Team (the “Team”). I acknowledge that I have a right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied or if I am charged with a violation of this Code.

I have familiarized myself with the Code and understand that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of my selection to the Team.

**As a Member of the Team, I hereby promise and agree that I:**

- will abide by all published rules related to the Team selection procedures as approved by USA Hockey;
- have acted and will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- will not commit a doping violation as defined by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) or the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) rules;
- am not currently serving a doping violation and/or do not have a pending or unresolved doping charge;
- will not engage in any conduct that is criminal under any laws applicable to me, including, but not limited to laws governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and of alcohol to minors;
- will not participate or assist in any gambling or betting activities associated with any event related to my sport or my participation;
- am eligible to compete under the rules of IPC

- should I be chosen for an international team that requires a passport, I am in possession of a valid USA passport, that will not expire prior to six months following the conclusion of the international competition;
- will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- will respect members of my Team, other teams, spectators and officials, and engage in no form of discriminatory behavior or verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;
- will follow my Team's written rules, including by way of example, written rules regarding curfew, required attendance at team meetings and prohibitions on the release of confidential team information;
- am aware that USA Hockey sponsors, suppliers and licensees provide critical support for the Team and, in recognition of this fact, I will wear designated USA Hockey apparel at all official Team functions and events;
- will not conceal or cover-up any USA Hockey sponsor, supplier or licensee brand or other identification appearing on my USA Hockey apparel;
- will abide by the rules of the IPC concerning allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used in competition or on visible body tattoos.
- agree to be filmed and photographed by the official photographer(s) and network(s) of USA Hockey under conditions authorized by USA Hockey and give event organizers and USA Hockey the right to use my name, picture, likeness, and biographical information before, during and after the period of my participation in these activities to promote the activity in which I participate or to promote the success of the team on which I compete; in no event may USA Hockey or the event organizers use or authorize the use of my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for the purpose of trade, including any use in a manner that would imply an endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission;
- will not use or authorize the use of photographs, films or videos of myself in my USA Hockey apparel or equipment or the use of the USA Hockey logo for the purpose of trade, without the prior written consent of USA Hockey;
- understand that if I require legal representation because of I am accused of a doping violation or am accused of criminal misconduct, or if for any other reasons I require the services of an attorney, I will be personally responsible for payment of such legal fees and expenses;

- will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, USA Hockey and the United States; and
- will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and the Olympic Movement.

<b>ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN</b>
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I may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman,  
for further information regarding my rights under this Code  
that are not answered by USA Hockey.

<b>PARTICIPANTS' AFFIRMATION</b>
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I have read and accept this Code of Conduct. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being selected to participate as a member of the Team.

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Signature

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Date

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NGB Name

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Sport

<b>PARENT/GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION</b> <b>(For Participants Under the Age of 18 as of Date of Signature)</b>
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Signature

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Date

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Relationship (Parent or Guardian)