

# National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) Athlete Selection Procedures 2025 IWBF Americas Cup

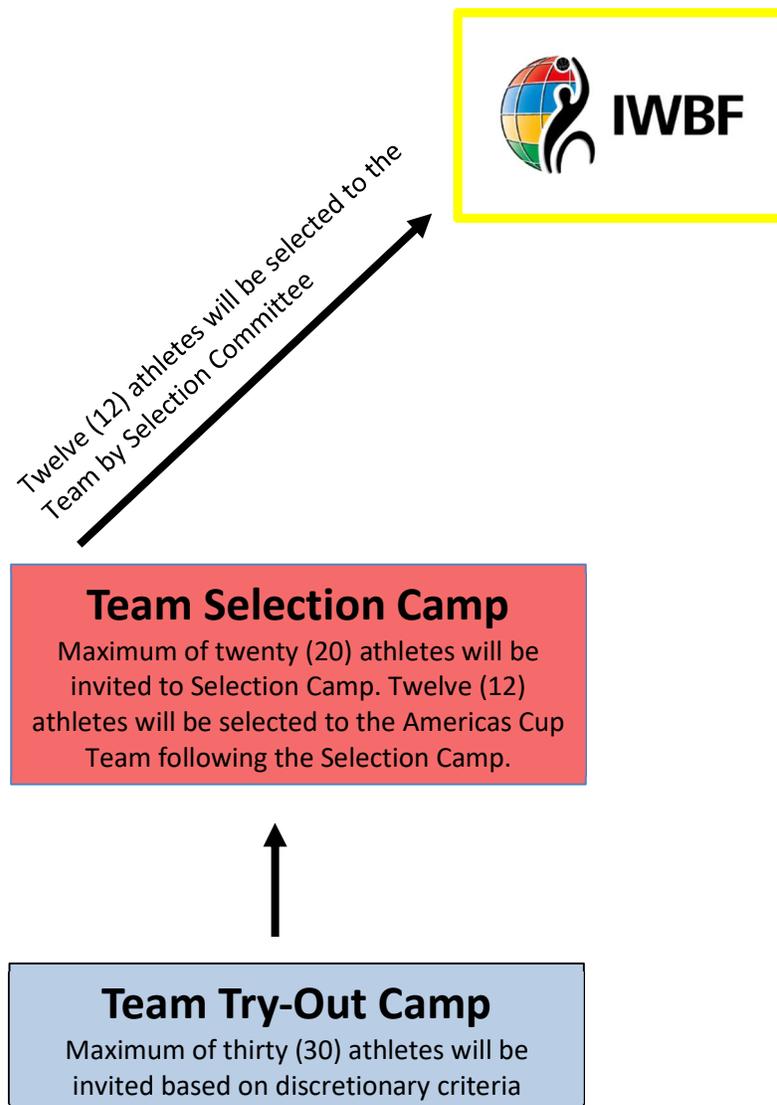
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## SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the qualification pathway for selection to the 2025 IWBF Americas Cup Team for the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA).

## SECTION 2: SELECTION PROCESS DIAGRAM

The following provides a high-level overview of how athletes will be nominated to the Team:



**Note: This diagram is for informational purposes only. In the event of a conflict between this diagram and any written section herein, the written sections will take precedent.**

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## SECTION 3: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 NATIONALITY/PASSPORTS REQUIREMENTS:

- Be eligible to compete for the USA according to IWBF requirements (reference Section 3.3) at the time of participation in the Try-Out Camp, and have a valid United States passport at the time of participation in the Selection Camp that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Americas Cup event.

### 3.2 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS:

- Comply with all requirements implemented by the organizing committee for the Americas Cup event.

### 3.3 INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL FEDERATION (IWBF) REQUIREMENTS:

- Abide by the rules in the IWBF Handbook and comply with all International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) eligibility requirements, including but not limited to nationality/citizenship and classification\*, found here: <https://iwbf.org/downloads/> and here: <https://iwbf.org/the-game/classification/>
- \*In order to be in compliance with IWBF eligibility requirements, athletes must have a Sport Class Status of (i) New; (ii) Review; and (iii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2025 or earlier in order to participate in the Americas Cup event.
- At the time of the Americas Cup Team Selection Camp, an athlete must have, at the minimum, completed Stage 1 of the international classification process as defined by the IWBF. A description of sport specific classification requirements and current athlete sport class status can be found at <https://iwbf.org/the-game/classification/>

### 3.4 NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NWBA) REQUIREMENTS:

- Comply with the NWBA Athlete Agreement.
- Comply with the NWBA Code of Conduct and SafeSport Program.
- Must be a member in good standing from the time of participation in an evaluative event through the conclusion of the Americas Cup event.
  - Athlete must have a verified complete NWBA Adult or Junior Athlete Membership Registration (for the 2024-2025 season and/or all applicable seasons).
  - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Americas Cup 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 Americas Cup event.
- Athlete must successfully complete all NWBA High Performance/National Team Player Application requirements by stated deadline(s). <https://www.nwba.org/usawb>

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#### SECTION 4: OTHER MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEAM

- Meet the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#) if athlete will be 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony.
- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all WADA, IWBF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes submitting Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) forms, participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of the WADA, IWBF, or USADA as applicable.
- Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, IWBF, NWBA and/or the Local Organizing Committee.

#### SECTION 5: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

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

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION
TBD	Try-Out Camp
TBD	Selection Camp

*\*Notification of changes will be emailed to appropriate athletes as well as noted on the NWBA website: <https://www.nwba.org/usawb> a minimum of 30 days in advance of the event.*

#### SECTION 6: SELECTION PROCESS

The following is a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the IWBF Qualification System.

**In the event of a conflict between this overview and the IWBF Qualification System, the IWBF Qualification System will take precedent.** For more details, please refer to the IWBF website:

<https://iwbf.org/>

#### TEAM (NPC) SLOT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

As outlined in the IWBF Regulations, qualification slots are allocated to the NPC (i.e., NWBA), not to the team or any individual athlete. An NPC can enter a maximum of twelve (12) eligible male athletes for the men's tournament and a maximum of twelve (12) eligible female athletes for the women's tournament.

#### PLAYER QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

##### 6.1 TRY-OUT CAMP

NWBA High Performance/National Team Player Applications will be reviewed by the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3). Men's and Women's Applications will be reviewed separately.

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From the Applications received, the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will invite athletes based on their abilities to exhibit expectations, characteristics, skills and other considerations outlined in Appendix A as demonstrated during camps/competitions/events between 2020 – 2024.

A minimum of thirty (30) athletes per gender will be invited to the Try-Out Camp. Athletes must confirm attendance for the Camp within seven (7) days following receipt of the invitation and must meet all eligibility requirements listed in Section 3. Additionally, Athletes are responsible to pay for their own travel expenses to/from this Camp. *Note: Email will be the method of communication used to offer invitations to athletes, using the email on file from the NWBA High Performance/National Team Player Application.*

During the Try-Out Camp, the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will evaluate athletes based on their ability to exhibit expectations, characteristics, skills, and other considerations outlined in Appendix A.

Following the Try-Out Camp, a minimum of twenty (20) athletes per gender will be selected as the Americas Cup Team Pool based on the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7.

#### 6.2 SELECTION CAMP

Athletes selected to the Americas Cup Team Pool (per gender) will be required to attend the Selection Camp and must meet all eligibility requirements listed in Section 3. NWBA will pay for appropriate Athlete travel expenses to participate in the Selection Camp (in compliance with NWBA Financial Policies & Procedures and Travel Guidelines).

During the Selection Camp, the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will evaluate athletes based on their ability to exhibit expectations, characteristics, skills, and other considerations outlined in Appendix A.

Following the Selection Camp, twelve (12) athletes and alternates per gender will be nominated to the Americas Cup Team based on the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 7.

## SECTION 7: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO SELECT ATHLETES FOR THE TEAM

#### 7.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

In team sports, it is difficult to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. As a result, discretionary /subjective criteria may be used to select the best physically, psychologically, and technically prepared athletes who will form the best team composition.

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#### 7.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

Discretionary criteria and selection are not a separate process but collectively are the team selection process - Reference Section 6 and Appendix A.

#### 7.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE

The committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections or other decisions and recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process.

##### NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee

- NWBA High Performance Committee (HPC) Chair or designee (1)
- NWBA Athlete Representatives (10-Year Athletes) from the High Performance Committee or designee(s) to reach 33.3% athlete representation (*At least half of the Athlete Representatives must be 10 Year Athletes and all must have gained eligibility through a Delegation Event*)
- 2025 National Team Head Coach (1) (*Men's Head Coach for the Men's Team Selection and Women's Head Coach for the Women's Team Selection*)
- 2025 National Team Assistant Coaches (up to 2) (*Men's Assistant Coaches for the Men's Team Selection and Women's Assistant Coaches for the Women's Team Selection*)
- NWBA CEO or designee (ex-officio/non-voting)

## SECTION 8: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

The table below describes mandatory training and/or competition\*.

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION
TBD	Try-Out Camp
TBD	Selection Camp
TBD	Training Camp(s)
TBD	IWBF Americas Cup

\*Notification of changes will be emailed to appropriate athletes as well as noted on the NWBA website: <https://www.nwba.org/usawb> a minimum of 30 days in advance.

While waivers for mandatory activities will not be unreasonably withheld, waivers will primarily be granted only for other competition(s) during the mandatory training time, injury or other similar 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 mandatory team camps, competition and activities. Requests for a waiver must be submitted as far in advance as possible in writing to the NWBA CEO for review by the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee. A written response will be issued to the athlete within 72 hours of receiving the request.

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#### SECTION 9: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

9.1 An athlete may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the NWBA:

- a. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the NWBA CEO requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
- b. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by the NWBA provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating and they may be removed from the Team.
- c. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
- d. Violation of the NWBA Bylaws, NWBA Policies & Procedures (which includes that NWBA Code of Conduct) and/or NWBA Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies:  
<https://www.nwba.org/aboutpoliciesprocedures> and <https://www.nwba.org/safesport>
- e. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed NGB Athlete Agreement.
- f. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 3 and Section 4 of these selection procedures.
- g. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated WADA, IWBF, USADA and/or NWBA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, and/or NWBA SafeSport policies, as applicable.
- h. A change in the athlete's sport class(es) following team selection such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified them for the team and/or the athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IWBF.

9.2 An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NWBA Bylaws, Page 34 - Article Fourteen: Grievance Procedures (<https://www.nwba.org/aboutpoliciesprocedures>).

#### SECTION 10: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS:

10.1 Should a vacancy occur, the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will nominate a replacement athlete(s) provided that, if at the time, replacements are allowable by the IWBF and Local Organizing Committee.

10.2 All replacement athletes must meet the requirements listed in Sections 3 and 4.

#### SECTION 11: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Americas Cup Team Pool:

- NWBA Athlete Agreement – document to be provided to National Team Athletes.

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- NWBA Junior or Adult Athlete Membership Registration includes the NWBA Code of Conduct, Liability Waiver, Concussion Acknowledgement and SafeSport Acknowledgement:  
<https://www.nwba.org/individualregistration>

## SECTION 12: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on IWBF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IWBF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria is based on current information available to the NWBA.

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, pandemic, 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.

## SECTION 13: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) must comply with the [NWBA Conflict of Interest Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the NWBA's Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

Any member of the Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the NWBA'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 a fair and impartial manner.

If a conflict exists, the NWBA'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 (Section 7.3), 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 with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the NWBA Ethics Committee by submitting a Policy Violation Report: <https://www.nwba.org/applications>. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity](#)

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[Portal](#). No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

Any recused individual shall be replaced by the NWBA High Performance Committee in consultation with the NWBA Ethics Committee.

## SECTION 14: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures.

Name: Tina Cain

Position: NWBA Business and Compliance Manager

Email: [tina@nwba.org](mailto:tina@nwba.org)

Phone: 317-331-8767

Name: Gail Gaeng

Position: NWBA AAC Chair

Email: [gail.gaeng@gmail.com](mailto:gail.gaeng@gmail.com)

Phone: 301-792-7034

## ATHLETE OMBUDS

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. The Athlete Ombuds Office can also assist in mediating disputes between athletes and the NWBA.

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>

## SECTION 15: GRIEVANCES

The Grievance Procedures can be found here within Article Fourteen of the NWBA Bylaws linked here:

<https://www.nwba.org/aboutpoliciesprocedures>

## SECTION 16: NON-RETALIATION

The NWBA has zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no NWBA staff,

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Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

Additional information can be found NWBA's Policies and Procedures linked here:

<https://www.nwba.org/aboutpoliciesprocedures>.

- Individuals may report concerns to the NWBA Ethics Committee by submitting a Policy Violation Report: <https://www.nwba.org/applications>.

## SECTION 17: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
David Greig	High Performance Committee Chair
Eric Barber	High Performance Committee Member (10 Year + Athlete)
Gail Gaeng	High Performance Committee Athlete Representative (10 Year Athlete)
Brandon McBeain	NWBA COO
Tina Cain	NWBA Business and Compliance Manager

The following individuals approved these selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
NWBA CEO	David Shaffer		11/26/2024
NWBA High Performance Committee Chair	David Greig		11/26/2024

The following individual affirms that he/she read and understands the selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative	Steve Serio		11/26/2024

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\* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC 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, 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 Team USA AC Representative, the NGB must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

#### **Revision History**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Revisions</b>
11/25/2024	Original document published

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#### APPENDIX A

Recognizing that a Team is more than the skills brought by its individual players, the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee (Section 7.3) will consider the mix of players in terms of positions, balance of sport classes, experience, match-up vs. international opponents, consistently demonstrating the potential to perform at an elite level, team needs, and player qualities beyond statistics and technical skills that contribute to the overall team's success.

#### Expectations

Players are expected to:

- possess individual fundamental skills;
- possess team skills;
- place team goals ahead of personal goals;
- be quick, fast, and well-conditioned enabling the team to play the up-tempo, full-court style of play necessary for success on the international stage;
- demonstrate the capacity to sustain elite performance throughout the tournament/ camp;
- be able to play individual and team defense in the half-court and full-court;
- be able to play with and without the ball, and;
- demonstrate the capacity to learn and implement new concepts on the court.

#### Other Considerations

- Balance of expertise in positions and roles
- Presence of experience and leadership
- Player interactions and team cohesiveness both on and off the court
- Player ability to respect the coaches, staff, and other players
- Player exhibited maturity on and off the court
  
- Individual player performance and statistics from scrimmages
- Testing results
- Previous National Team reporting compliance-*if applicable*

#### Characteristics

- 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 as a player and number of games played at the national tournament and international level.

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**Athleticism:** Do you have speed in the full court and quickness in the half-court? Are you at your optimum strength and endurance? Without these attributes, you will not be able to handle the pace of our game plan.

**Defensive Ability:** Do you have the character, work ethic, and mental toughness to relentlessly deny your opponent the opportunity to play the game? It is as much attitude as technique. We will be looking for mental fortitude and technical skill.

**Ball Handling Ability:** Do you take care of the ball, especially under pressure (with both hands)? Are you a passer (with both hands)? Do you see the floor and read the defense well? Passing well will be a premium.

**Shooting:** Are you a shooter, or are you a scorer? Are you consistent? Can you create and finish? When training on your own, do you shoot volume? Individual training should include game shots in game-like situations.

**Rebounding:** Do you have a "nose" for the ball? Are you quick to the ball? Are you willing to battle? Do you have grit? Rebounding is a talent, but it is human-driven. Like defense, it is mostly attitude!

**Offensive Ability:** Do you have the skills necessary to be a threat with and without the ball? Do you see the floor, and can you read defenses and react quickly to outplay your opponent? Are you selfless? We will be looking for individual ability AND team players.

**Intelligence:** Do you have basketball common sense? How fast do you learn new systems? Can you consistently apply these strategies to game situations? We are looking for quick learners with the discipline to modify their individual game as needed to best suit the team's needs.

**Passion:** Do you have a passion for the game? You may have the best technical skills, but if you don't have the passion, you will perform below your potential! This intangible quality becomes evident when we see a love of the sport within an athlete who wants to overachieve as a student of the game.

**Leadership:** Are you a leader, or are you a follower? We are looking for team members willing to help the team reach its goals. We recognize that leadership comes in many forms, and we want players that demand the best of themselves and their teammates on the court and off at all times.

**Responsibility:** Do you meet deadlines and achieve your goals? Are you taking care of yourself physically and mentally while training away from the team? Are you utilizing the many resources available exclusively to Team USA athletes? How well do you communicate your needs to those around you? Being part of Team USA means you are accountable to yourself, your teammates, the staff, and team goals.

**Communication:** Communication is foundational to any team's success. Communication includes the ability to receive (listening and understanding) and send (delivery of your message in either spoken or written form). How well do you communicate with others? In games and training, how do you communicate nonverbally and verbally? To be successful, we need great communicators on the court. Being part of Team USA means being part of a decentralized program. We rely heavily on timely communication and weekly check-ins with staff while not at training camps or competitions. We are looking for athletes that are great communicators on and off the court.

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#### Specific Skills

##### Ball handling skills

- Can dribble the ball with dominant and non-dominant hand while moving
- Can pass with dominant and non-dominant hand
- Uses a variety of passes
- Can pass to all classes
- Passes away from the defense

##### Chair skills

- Speed: top end
- Moves chair under control
- Quickness: ability to get started from a stopped position and get to top end speed
- Ability to change directions
- Ability to avoid contact
- Ability to use proper angles

##### Shooting

- Accuracy
- Range
- Can shoot with non-dominant hand
- Free throws: can they make the shot

##### Offense

- Picking:
  - Do they pick?
  - Do they use proper pick mechanics
  - Do they set good picks?
  - How do they read the court?
- Team Player
  - How do they work with others?
  - Are they working 1x1 or within the offense?
  - Do they make 2x2 reads?
  - Do they make 3x3 reads?
  - Do they read the other side of the court?
  - Will they work to get someone else the shot?
  - are they looking for the best shot or their shot?

##### Defense

- 1 on 1
  - Chair position
  - Communicating with others
- Half Court (2x2, 3x3, 5x5)
  - Switching
  - Communicating with others
  - Aggressive, but smart
  - Identifies threats
  - Can execute a triangle switch
  - Ballside/Helpside defensive principles

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- Full Court
  - Ability to stay with other players in the full court
  - Communicating with others
  - Sees teammates, opponents, ball
  - Identifies threats

#### Conversion

- Defensive
  - Gets back quickly
  - Immediately helps teammates get back
  - Communicates with teammates
  - Quickly locates ball, opponents, ball
  - Quickly locates threats
  - Fills proper position
  - Quickly recognizes numerical disadvantages
- Offensive
  - Blocks out
  - Quickly becomes an outlet
  - Outlet passes with either hand
  - Recognizes when to power dribble
  - Crosses down the court
  - Immediately rubs off defenders for teammates
  - Looks to back pick
  - Fills correct lanes
  - Can handle ball with either hand
  - Quickly recognizes court balance
  - Communicates with teammates
  - Recognizes numerical superiority

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#### APPENDIX B – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

**AAC** – Athletes’ Advisory Council

**Act or TSOASA** – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

**APC** – Americas Paralympic Committee

**CAS** – Court of Arbitration for Sport

**Center or CSS** – U.S. Center for SafeSport

**CF** – Continental Federation

**IMS** – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

**IOC** – International Olympic Committee

**IPC** – International Paralympic Committee

**IF** – International Federation

**LOC** – Local Organizing Committee

**NGB** – National Governing Body

**NOC** – National Olympic Committee

**NPC** – National Paralympic Committee

**OCOG** – Organizing Committee of Olympic Games

**PAG** – Pan American Games

**Panam Sports or PASO** – Pan American Sports Organization

**PPAG** – Parapan American Games

**PSO** – Paralympic Sport Organization

**TEAM USA AC** – Team USA Athletes’ Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

**USADA** – United States Anti-Doping Agency

**WADA** – World Anti-Doping Agency

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#### APPENDIX C – GLOSSARY

**Contingency** means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

**Delegation Event** means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

**Force Majeure** means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

**Grievance Procedures** means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

**Jurisdiction** means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

**Nominated** means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted to the USOPC by an NGB for participation in a Delegation Event.

**Protected Competition** means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

**Qualifying Competition** means either of the following:

- i. **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- ii. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

**Selected** means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the USOPC to the OCOG at the final submission date, as determined by the OCOG.

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#### APPENDIX D – ATHLETE RESOURCES

##### **TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC)** *(Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)*

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: <https://www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission>

##### **ATHLETE LEGAL AID**

The purpose of the Athlete Legal Aid Program is to assist elite athletes without sufficient financial means to seek aid for fees and costs associated with legal representation or the proceeding itself with respect to claims before an anti-doping organization, NGB, IF, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USOPC, IOC/IPC, Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), or other sport-related tribunal within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

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

##### **ATHLETE OMBUDS**

The Office of 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 NGB.

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>

##### **USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)**

USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner.

To contact the DRU:

EMAIL: [DRU@usopc.org](mailto:DRU@usopc.org)

WEBSITE: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>

##### **USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE**

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

# National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)

## Athlete Selection Procedures

### 2025 IWBF Americas Cup

#### USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.

#### SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit [www.safesporthehelpline.org](http://www.safesporthehelpline.org).

#### TEAM USA ATHLETE SERVICES

The USOPC supports Team USA athletes and hopefuls via a variety of programs for both athletes and their NGB. In addition to performance grants and rewards, additional support is provided in the form of training facilities, sports medicine and science, coaching education, health insurance, promotional opportunities, education and career services, outfitting and travel, and SafeSport and anti-doping programming.

WEBSITE: <https://www.usopc.org/athlete-benefits-and-resources>

#### TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The USOPC is committed to promoting sustained well-being for Team USA athletes. More than ever, it is critical that the USOPC empower those who are in need to seek mental health assistance, while proactively delivering mental health resources and services. The USOPC Mental Health Services has five full-time licensed mental health providers to serve the mental health needs of Team USA athletes and staff.

WEBSITE: <https://www.usopc.org/mental-health>