

USA Volleyball (USAV)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2024 Paralympic Games
Sitting Volleyball – Men & Women
February 8, 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) World ParaVolley (WPV) and/or Continental Federation (CF) standards for participation (if any):

- Have played in at least one (1) international sanctioned World ParaVolley sitting volleyball competition between 1 January 2022 and 31 July 2024; and
- Be internationally classified in an eligible Sport class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date after 31 December 2024.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- Current registrant of USA Volleyball in Good standing including signed Code of Conduct (herein called “Code of Conduct”, see by

example

<https://usavolleyball.org/wp=content/uploads/2022/04/2022-Code-of-Conduct.pdf> (Code of Conduct Form will be updated by USA Volleyball for 2023-2024).

- Signed Medical Release for participants under 18 years of age (See by example link above. Form will be updated by USA Volleyball for 2023-2024).
- Member of the Men’s or Women’s Sitting National Player Pool (per Section 1.2.1), hereinafter, “Pool”.
- 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:

Athletes are selected to the Pool by the respective Men’s or Women’s Sitting National Team Head Coach with input from other Sitting National Team technical staff and Sitting National Team scouts / consultants identified by the Head Coach. Technical staff evaluates athletes throughout the Quadrennium such that athletes can be identified who perform, or are judged capable of performing, at a level justifying placement in the Pool per the criteria in Section 2.1 and 2.2 of these Procedures. Athletes selected to the pool will be notified by email.

Athletes who are members of the Pool may include the following:

Athletes selected as a member of a USA Sitting Women’s or Men’s National Team or Sitting National Training Team, and / or included on the roster of any of the following international events:

2021 Paralympic Games ;
2022 World Championships ;
2019 Parapan American Games ;
2023 WPV Zone Qualifier ;
2017 Parapan American Zone Championship ;

2023 WPV World Cup ;
and any other international competition between January 2021 and July 11,
2024.

- Athletes identified through USA Volleyball’s Training Camp and Tryout program.
- Athletes identified through military and hospital programs.
- Athletes identified by USA Volleyball staff, scouts, consultants, or other volleyball coaches.
- Athletes identified by submitting videos or other relevant data to the respective National Team Head Coach by contacting the coach and establishing submission details.

Selection to the Pool (see 1.2.1) at any time does not guarantee that an athlete will be selected to participate in any USA Volleyball programs or events during the quadrennium, including those programs described in these Selection Procedures. Athletes may be added to the Pool throughout the quadrennium(s). Athletes may be removed from the Pool at any time with the respective National Team Head Coach having the final decision on removal of an athlete from the Pool. Athletes may also voluntarily remove themselves from the Pool by notifying the respective National Team Head Coach by email or letter.

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

N/A

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

The respective USA Women’s or Men’s Head Coach will recommend the Final Rosters of 12 (unless changed by the IPC or IF) athletes per gender, and replacement players to USAV’s Selection Review Committee, from among the members of the Pool. The recommendations will be based upon the Selection Criteria (Section 2) using the events in Section 1.2., and including the cumulative statistical, physical, videotape, written and observational evaluations from the USA Women’s or Men’s coaching staffs and consultants. USAV’s Selection Review Committee will review the coach’s recommendations and submit nominations for the Paralympic Games Team to the USOPC for final approval.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

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

The sport of volleyball is not a measured or timed event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. It is the belief of USA Volleyball and the USA Women's and Men's Team coaching staffs that considering the mix of selection criteria set forth below, which includes subjective components as well as objective statistical measures in evaluation of performance ability, will result in selection of the best players who will work together as the most effective team and contribute to team success.

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

In evaluating and selecting athletes the following criteria will be considered:

1. Preference will be given to those athletes with National Team and National Training Team experience.
2. Statistical, videotape, written and observational evaluations (obtained during the current quadrennium) of athletes based on the following, in no particular order of priority:
 - a. Attack Efficiency
 - b. Blocking Efficiency
 - c. Digging Efficiency
 - d. Setting Efficiency (accuracy and selection)
 - e. Serving Efficiency
 - f. Passing Efficiency

The above listed criteria shall carry different importance depending upon the position the athlete is playing [e.g., Setter; Outside Attacker; Opposite Attacker; Defensive Specialist (Libero); Serving Specialist; Blocking Specialist].

Other considerations shall include the following in no particular order of priority:

- i. Teamwork: The willingness to accept a role that leads to team success.
- ii. Positive Attitude: Exhibiting enthusiasm and support of teammates.
- iii. Versatility: Exhibiting a balance between offensive and defensive skills as well as the ability to play multiple positions and fulfill multiple roles.

- iv. Maturity: Exhibiting an ability to adjust to various situations and dealing with adversity. Adjusting to situations that are not going well and reacting appropriately.
- v. Coach Direction: Exhibiting the ability to process and incorporate input from the coaching staff.

- 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:

The USA Women's and Men's coaching staffs, and ultimately the respective Head Coaches, are responsible for making all athlete recommendations for the respective Teams to the Selection Review Committee using the selection criteria identified in Section 2.

USAV's Selection Review Committee will review the coach's recommendations and submit nominations for the Team to the USOPC for final approval.

The Selection Review Committee consists of the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief of Sport and one athlete representative per gender appointed by USA Volleyball's AAC 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 selection committee must comply with USA Volleyball's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USA Volleyball's 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 the USA Volleyball'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, the USA Volleyball'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 USA Volleyball'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 USA Volleyball's selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

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

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

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the Chief of Sport of USA Volleyball.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Volleyball. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Volleyball, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the USA Volleyball's [Code of Conduct](#).
- 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/WPV of the event in which the athlete qualified for the team from the medal event program of the 2024 Paris Paralympic 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/WPV.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Volleyball's Bylaws (reference Article XI and XIV) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable NGB/PSO Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply, contained in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms. The USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and made available during the Games registration process; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the Delegation Terms. See "Delegation Events" at <https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Dispute-Resolution> for more information.
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USA Volleyball's SafeSport policies, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

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

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

In the event an athlete is removed from a Team, a replacement athlete shall be recommended from the identified replacement players by the respective USA Women's or Men's Head Coach (in consultation with the team technical staff) for final approval by the Selection Review Committee. The selection shall be based upon the Selection Criteria (see Section 2).

- 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 LOC, in the event an athlete is removed from a Team, a replacement athlete shall be recommended from the identified replacement players by the respective USA Women's or Men's Head

Coach (in consultation with team technical staff) for final approval by the Selection Review Committee. The selection shall be based upon the Selection Criteria (see Section 2).

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Volleyball 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 Paralympic Games (include as attachments or provide links):

USAV's Registration Form ([Region specific](#)) and Code of Conduct (See by example: <https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>. Code of Conduct Form will be updated by USA Volleyball for 2023-2024).

Signed Medical Release for participants under 18 years of age (See by example link above. Form will be updated by USA Volleyball for 2023-2024).

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

7.1. NGB/PSO Web site: USA Volleyball Web site: www.usavolleyball.org

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

7.2. Other: N/A

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

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

July 12, 2024

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

The USA Women's and Men's Paralympic Games coaching staffs develop programs of mandatory training for those athletes selected to their respective Teams. Each member of the two Teams is required to participate in the program of training developed and to participate in any competition for which they are selected, unless excused by the Head Coach for medical or other justifiable reason. Athletes will be notified of any programs of training and/or competition at least 30 days prior to the start of the mandatory training/competition.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

These selection procedures were developed by Dr. Peter Vint, USA Volleyball's Chief of Sport, and reviewed by Eric Duda, AAC Representative and USAV's CEO, Jamie Davis. For questions please contact: peter.vint@usav.org, or call 470-786-5210.

12. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Volleyball Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:
<https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/5.25.22-USAV-Bylaws.pdf>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IPC, , as applicable, and/or **your IF/CF** rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, as applicable, and/or **your IF/CF** rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to **NGB/PSO**. 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:

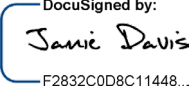
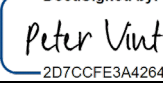
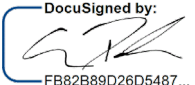
PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF World ParaVolley 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 Volleyball.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Volleyball CEO	Jamie Davis	 <small>F2832C0D8C11448...</small>	3/15/2023
Chief of Sport	Peter Vint	 <small>2D7CCFE3A42649E...</small>	3/15/2023
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Eric Duda	 <small>FB82B89D26D5487...</small>	3/15/2023

* 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.