RIO 2016
PARALYMPIC
QUALIFICATION & SELECTION
PROCEDURES
TEAM USA
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QUALIFICATION
The major qualification event for archery is the 2015 World Archery Para Championships. USA Archery will attempt to earn two W1 Men’s, three Open Compound Men’s, three Open Recurve Men’s, three Open Recurve Women’s, two W1 Women’s and 2 Open Compound Women’s spots by finishing in the top four mixed teams at the world championships. USA Archery will also attempt to qualify individuals at this event. There will also be opportunities for qualification at an archery qualification tournament and the 2015 Parapan American Games.

SELECTION
USA Archery has not released the final selection criteria for the 2016 Paralympic Games. The selection is currently in draft format and was released for final comment last month. Three team trials events have been proposed but not finalized.

KEY DATES
2015
Aug. 7-15 Parapan American Games (Toronto, Ontario)
Aug. 23-30 World Archery Para Championships (Donaueschingen, Germany)
Sept./Oct. Team trials event (pending approved team selection procedures)

MEDIA CONTACT
Teresa Johnson | tjohnson@usaarchery.org | (860) 904-0497
QUALIFICATION

Selection for the Paralympic Games is based solely on the Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed) international ranking list. This ranking list ranks all boccia players that have competed in any international for the three years prior to a Paralympic Games. Points are awarded based on the place a player finishes in a particular competition. Competitions with more nations earn players more points than competitions that have fewer nations competing. The BISFed ranking list is updated once a year.

USA Boccia will have athletes in Rio if they finish the quadrennium in the top of their respective ranking lists.

SELECTION

USA Boccia does not have any involvement in developing the selection criteria for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. The selection criteria is based completely on the international ranking list. Top ranked athletes are invited based on the quotes set by BISFed.

KEY DATES

2014
Sept. 18-28   Boccia World Championships (Beijing, China)

2015
Aug. 7-15    ParaPan Games (Toronto, Canada)

2016
TBA    World Championships

MEDIA CONTACT

Jeff Jones | jjones@blazesports.org | (404) 270-2036
QUALIFICATION
Qualification procedures for the para-canoe competition at the 2016 Paralympic Games are not yet available.

SELECTION
USA Paracanoe has not released selection criteria for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

KEY DATES
2015
Aug. TBD       ICF Paracanoe World Championships (Milan, Italy)

2016
May TBD      ICF Paracanoe World Championships

MEDIA CONTACT
Aaron Mann | aaron@usack.org | (301) 325-9504
QUALIFICATION
Team USA’s team size will be determined by athlete performances at UCI World Championship, World Cup and other international competitions.

SELECTION
Athletes will be selected based on performance at selection events and national standards. Full selection procedures will be available at USParalympics.org.

KEY DATES
2015
July 28-Aug. 2  UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships  (Nottwil, Switzerland)
Aug. 7-15  Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

MEDIA CONTACT
Katie Branham | katie.branham@usoc.org | (719) 866-3302
QUALIFICATION
A total of 78 qualification spots are available in equestrian for the 2016 Paralympic Games. The top three ranked teams at the 2014 Fédération Equestre Internationale World Equestrian Games on Aug. 23-Sept. 7 in Normandy, France, will each obtain four qualification slots for their National Paralympic Committee. The seven highest ranked teams on the FEI Paralympic Team Ranking List (open Nov. 1, 2014-Jan. 31, 2016), which are not otherwise qualified, will each obtain four qualification slots for their NPC. Additionally, the top team from each region (Africa, Americas, Asia and Oceania) that has not qualified will be allocated four spots.

Only NPCs that have not received qualification slots through any of the above allocation methods are eligible to receive qualification slots through the FEI Paralympic Individual Ranking List allocation method. Two qualification spots each from Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania will be distributed to NPCs that way. Three eligible athletes will be considered by the FEI and International Paralympic Committee for Bipartite Commission Invitation slots.

As the host country, Brazil directly qualifies four athletes. In case the host country has qualified a team at the 2014 World Equestrian Games, the four host country slots will be allocated to the next highest ranked team (not otherwise qualified) on the FEI Paralympic Team Ranking List closing Jan. 31, 2016.

The five highest ranked athletes (regardless of region) on the FEI Paralympic Individual Ranking List Jan. 31, 2016, will each earn one qualification slot for their NPC. The ranking list used for the completion of quota method will not include the highest ranked athletes from NPCs that have already been allocated qualification slots. The number of athletes removed from the Ranking List per NPC will equate to the number of qualification slots achieved through the team and individual allocation methods listed above (except Bipartite Commission Invitation slots).

SELECTION
The United States Para Equestrian Association has not released selection criteria for the 2016 U.S. Paralympic Equestrian Team.

KEY DATES
2014
Aug. 23-Sept. 7 Fédération Equestre Internationale World Equestrian Games (Normandy, France)

2015
Aug. 7-15 Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

MEDIA CONTACT
Lindsay McCall | lindsay@uspea.org | (330) 720-0246
QUALIFICATION
There are three general tournaments sanctioned by goalball’s international federation, the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), to qualify for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. Only 10 men’s and 10 women’s teams will secure a bid to compete by placing in the top three at one of these competitions. The three qualification tournaments include the 2014 IBSA Goalball World Championships, the IBSA Regional Qualification Tournaments and the IBSA World Goalball Ranking Tournament to be held during the IBSA World Games.

The U.S. is the first non-host nation to qualify both its women’s and men’s national teams for Rio. At the 2014 IBSA Goalball World Championships in Espoo, Finland, the women placed first and the men were third. As the host of the 2016 Paralympic Games, Brazil receives an automatic bid for both teams.

SELECTION
National team coaches and the high performance director select a pool of athletes based on observation at USABA tournaments to attend national training camps. Because goalball is a relatively small sport in the U.S., the high performance team is able to screen the country’s available talent pool at sanctioned USABA tournaments and observe a player’s leadership and playing skills in a competitive environment.

The women’s and men’s national goalball teams consisting of six women and six men are announced every year for international competition. The selection is based off of tournaments and national team camps performances.

KEY DATES
2015
Jan. 16-18  Pajulahti Games (Nastola, Finland)
April 23-26  Lithuania/Belgium Men’s Invitational (Lithuania/Belgium)
May TBD  Lady Malmo Intercup (Malmo, Sweden)
May 8-18  Fifth IBSA World Games (Seoul, Korea)
Aug. 7-15  Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

MEDIA CONTACT
Katie Keating | kkeating@usaba.org | (719) 866-3222
QUALIFICATION
A total of 84 men and 48 women can qualify for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games for judo. The top ranked men and women in each medal event at the 2014 world championships will receive one qualification slot for the athlete’s National Paralympic Committee. In 2015, the top nine ranked men and top five ranked women in each medal event on the World Ranking List, closing Dec. 31, 2015, will obtain a qualification slot for their NPC.

As the host country, Brazil will receive qualifications for one athlete in each medal event for which the country enters an athlete in the 2014 IBSA Judo World Championships, Sept. 4-7 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Bipartite qualification slots will be considered for one male and one female athlete per medal event at the discretion of the IPC and IBSA Judo. There is a possibility of adding up to three additional qualifying events in 2015; however, this has not been confirmed.

SELECTION
A Paralympic trial for all qualified athletes has not yet been determined.

KEY DATES
2014
Sept. 4-7  IBSA World Judo Championships (Colorado Springs, Colorado)

2015
May 8-18  IBSA World Games (Seoul, South Korea)
Aug. 7-15  Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

MEDIA CONTACT
Diego Osorio | diegoosorio@msn.com
QUALIFICATION

In powerlifting, the qualification slots are awarded to athletes, not the National Paralympic Committee. The International Paralympic Committee has introduced a new set of qualification pathways for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, which state that an athlete must have met the minimum qualifying standards to qualify to enter the 2014 world championships and have had competed at that event, barring unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, in the third year of the quad, Team USA athletes must attend and compete at a competition to qualify for the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games. Finally, the top eight men in the world will qualify for slots in each body weight category; the top six women in the world will qualify to compete in Rio in 2016.

SELECTION

The selection criteria are the same as the qualification processes; the IPC invites the athlete that qualifies in the top six or eight in his or her respective body weight class.

KEY DATES

2014
Oct. 11  USA Para Powerlifting competition at the University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond, Oklahoma)

2015
Aug. 7-15  Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

MEDIA CONTACTS

Whitt Carter | wcarter1@uco.edu | (405) 974-3127
QUALIFICATION
The first step of the selection process for the 2016 U.S. Paralympic Rowing Team will occur at the 2015 world championships held Aug. 30-Sept. 6 on Lake Aiguebelette, France. This is the first opportunity for countries to qualify their boats (not individual athletes) for the Paralympic Games. Crews will have a second opportunity to earn a spot in the Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta in 2016.

SELECTION
USA Rowing has not yet released selection procedures for the 2016 U.S. Paralympic Rowing Team.

KEY DATES
2015
Aug. 30-Sept. 6 World Rowing Championships (Lake Aiguebelette, France)

2016
TBD U.S. Paralympic Team Trials – Rowing
TBD World Rowing Cup I
TBD World Rowing Cup II
TBD World Rowing Cup III
TBD Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta

MEDIA CONTACT
Allison Frederick | Allison@usrowing.org | (609) 751-0710
QUALIFICATION
National qualifier events for the 2016 Paralympic Games include the 2014 IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championship in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the 2015 IFDS Worlds in Melbourne, Australia. In 2014, the U.S. qualified for Rio 2016 in the 2.4mR and SKUD-18 classes by finishing in the top six in both classes at the world championship and narrowly missed qualification in the Sonar. American Sonar athletes will seek to qualify the U.S. in 2015 in Melbourne by finishing as one of the top six, non-qualified nations.

SELECTION
U.S. Sailing has not released Rio 2016 Paralympic Team selection criteria at this time.

KEY DATES
2015
Jan. 24-31            ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami (Miami, Florida)
Nov. 26-Dec. 3           IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championships (Melbourne, Australia)

MEDIA CONTACT
William Ricketson | willricketson@ussailingteam.org | (978) 697-2384
QUALIFICATION
Only 150 quota slots (100 male, 50 female) are available for Paralympic shooters in 12 medal events, marking the first quota increase for the sport in 25 years. Slots are awarded via direct quota allocation to the nation, versus the previous Minimum Qualification Score slot allocation. When an athlete secures a quota spot, it guarantees the nation, not the athlete, a place at the Paralympic Games in that specific event. Only one athlete can obtain one quota slot for a nation in any event and a nation can be allocated a maximum of 12 quota slots (maximum of eight from one gender). The 2014 IPC Shooting World Championships marked the first opportunity for athletes to earn quota slots. The next three opportunities will be select IPC Shooting World Cups throughout 2015.

SELECTION
Athletes selected to compete on the USA Shooting Team at the 2016 Paralympic Games will be selected by a committee based on Paralympic competition performance. The team will be named on or by July 31, 2016.

KEY DATES
2015
Sept. 12-19 IPC Shooting World Cup (Sydney, Australia)
TBD Two additional IPC Shooting World Cups

MEDIA CONTACT
Jessica Delos Reyes | Jessica.DelosReyes@usashooting.org | (719) 866-4896
QUALIFICATION
The 2016 Paralympic Games will have eight countries per gender competing in the sitting volleyball competition. Qualified nations will include the two winning teams for each gender from the 2014 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships and winners from the World ParaVolley Zones—Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games for the Americas region. The last chance to qualify is at the 2016 World ParaVolley Intercontinental. Brazil automatically earns a spot into the 2016 Paralympics as the host country. In the case that a zone has not hosted a championship by the 2016 worlds, any available men’s or women’s team slot(s) will be allocated to the next highest ranked team(s) not otherwise qualified at the 2016 World ParaVolley Intercontinental regardless of region.

The U.S. Women’s Sitting Volleyball Team qualified for the 2016 Paralympic Games by finishing with the silver medal at the World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships held in June 2014 in Poland. The men have not qualified at this time.

SELECTION
Selection procedures for the 2016 Paralympic Games have not been approved by the United States Olympic Committee. It is expected that selection procedures will be similar to those approved for the selection of the 2015 Parapan American Games Team.

KEY DATES
2015
Aug. 7-15 Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

2016
March World ParaVolley Intercontinental

MEDIA CONTACT
Bill Kauffman | bill.kauffman@usav.org | (719) 228-6800
QUALIFICATION
There are eight places available for qualification for 2016 Paralympics in Rio. The top eight teams that finish at the 2015 World Championships will automatically qualify for the 2016 Paralympic Games.

SELECTION
The U.S. Paralympic National Soccer Team head coach will choose athletes for the final roster.

KEY DATES
2015
June 16-28 World Championship (St. Georges Park, England)

MEDIA CONTACT
Neil Buethe | NBuethe@ussoccer.org | (312) 528-1270
QUALIFICATION
For the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, each National Paralympic Committee can receive a maximum of 34 male qualification slots and 28 female slots. Team USA’s team size will be determined by IPC’s slot allocation process. Athletes can qualify for Rio at the 2015 International Paralympic Committee Swimming World Championships and at any IPC Swimming Recognized 50m competition. A total of 10 athletes—five men and five women—can be considered for Bipartite Commission Invitation slots.

SELECTION
To be eligible for a qualification slot, athletes must have an active International Paralympic Committee Swimming Athlete License for the 2016 season, achieve a Minimum Qualification Standard from an approved IPC Swimming 50m competition between Oct. 15, 2014-Aug. 14, 2016, meet a MQS in accordance with the Athlete Licensing Program Policies for the 2014-2016 seasons and be internationally classified with a ‘Confirmed’ sport class or ‘Review’ sport class status with a review date after Dec. 31, 2016. Selection will be based on the 2016 U.S. Paralympic Swimming Trials using modified world rankings. Full selection procedures will be available at USParalympics.org once approved.

KEY DATES
2015
July 13-19  IPC Swimming World Championships (Glasgow, Great Britain)
Aug. 7-15  Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

MEDIA CONTACT
Katie Branham | katie.branham@usoc.org | (719) 866-3302
A total of 174 male athletes and 102 female table tennis athletes will compete in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. National Paralympic Committees will receive three qualification slots per individual event. A NPC is also allowed one eligible team for each team event, with a minimum of two and a maximum of three eligible athletes from the team entered in individual events. The top rated men and women in each individual event from the 2015 International Table Tennis Federation Para Table Tennis Regional Championships will qualify for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. Top rated men and women who have not earned a qualification slot will be allocated a slot based on the ITTF PTT World Rating List, which closes Dec. 31, 2015. Bipartite Commission Invitation qualification slots will be allocated to 20 male athletes and 11 female athletes, up to the established quota for each event.

For selection, athletes must be ranked on the ITTF PTT World Rating List by Dec. 31, 2015. Additionally, athletes must meet the requirements of the ITTF Tournament Credit system between Jan. 1, 2014 – Dec. 31, 2015 and be internationally classified with a ‘Confirmed’ sport class status.

**KEY DATES 2015**

- Aug. 7-15 Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Sean O’Neill | Olympic88@me.com | (503) 941-0731
QUALIFICATION
A total of 1,100 athletes—660 men and 440 women—will compete in track & field at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. National Paralympic Committees can receive a maximum of 48 male qualification slots and 32 female qualification slots. Unused allocated slots will be distributed to other NPCs through the Bipartite Invitation Commission Allocation method. Team USA’s slot allocation will be determined by the 2015 IPC Athletics World Championships results, 2016 IPC Athletics Marathon World Cup results, IPC’s Rio 2016 Qualification Rankings and the IPC’s A Qualification Standard.

SELECTION
U.S. Paralympics Track & Field has not finalized selection procedures for the 2016 Paralympic Games. When available, full selection procedures will be posted at USParalympics.org.

KEY DATES
2015
Aug. 7-15 Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)
Nov. 19-28 IPC Athletics World Championships (Doha, Qatar)

MEDIA CONTACT
Katie Branham | katie.branham@usoc.org | (719) 866-3302
QUALIFICATION
Triathlon will consist of three medal events per gender (six total) for a combined maximum field of 60 athletes (30 men, 30 women). Medal events may not be the same for each gender. Qualification slots will be allocated to each National Paralympic Committee through the ITU World Championships and the ITU Paralympic Qualification List – maximum of two qualification slots per medal event (12 total per NPC). Top-ranked athletes in each medal event at the 2015 ITU World Championships earn a spot for their NPC. The top six ranked athletes on the ITU Paralympic Qualification list also earn a spot for the NPC. Eight qualification spots will be determined by the Bipartite Commission (allocated directly to athletes – not to NPCs).

SELECTION
USA Triathlon’s selection criteria for the 2016 U.S. Paralympic Team has not yet been determined.

KEY DATES
2015
Sept. ITU World Championships (Chicago, Illinois)

MEDIA CONTACT
Lindsay Wyskowski | lindsay.wyskowski@usatriathlon.org | (719) 955-2828
QUALIFICATION
The 2014 world champions automatically qualified for the competition in Rio. The next chance for teams to qualify for Rio will happen at the 2015 Parapan American Games in Toronto. The Parapan American Games are the only remaining opportunity for Team USA to qualify for the men’s or women’s tournament.

SELECTION
Male and female athletes vying for spots Team USA will be invited to attend team tryout camps in January 2015 and 2016. The athletes selected in 2015 will represent the United States at the 2015 Parapan American Games, Aug. 7-15, in Toronto. However, athletes selected for the Parapan American Games do not automatically make the 2016 U.S. Paralympic Team. The athletes will join others at a final selection camp in 2016 in order to determine the 12 athletes that will represent Team USA in Rio in men’s and women’s wheelchair basketball.

KEY DATES

2015
Aug. 7-15 Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

MEDIA CONTACT
Michelle Alban | press@nwba.org
QUALIFICATION
Qualification for the 2016 Paralympic Games is done by individual athlete rather than country or quota slots. The qualification process begins on Sept. 1, 2014 and concludes on May 31, 2016. Paralympic positions are allocated for both Category A and B athletes in foil and epee for both men and women and saber for men. Each nation can qualify a maximum of two athletes per event. The first opportunity for direct athlete qualification will take place at the 2015 wheelchair world championships in Moscow, Russia in July. The gold medalists in each event will secure an automatic berth to the 2016 Paralympic Games.

In early 2016, zonal championships will be held for each region with the winner of each event earning a slot for Rio. Remaining positions will be allocated based on individual World Rankings as of May 31, 2016. These positions will be allocated to the top four athletes in the World Rankings in each event who were not already qualified through other championships. If an athlete qualifies in one event through any of the methods above and would like to fence a second weapon, he or she may do so, provided the athlete is ranked in the top 16 in the world as of May 31, 2016.

Team events will be held in men’s and women’s epee and foil. If a country has three qualified fencers at the Games in a single weapon and is ranked among the top 10 men’s or top eight women’s teams in the world on the WRL, that nation may field a team in the team event at the Games.

SELECTION
Selection procedures will be published during the winter of the 2014-15 season.

KEY DATES
2014
Sept. 25-28 Grand Prix (Warsaw, Poland)
Nov. 13-16 World Cup (Eger, Hungary)
Dec. 13-18 World Cup (Hong Kong, China)

2016
TBD Pan American Zonal Championships
April 15-18 USA Fencing Wheelchair National Championships

MEDIA CONTACT
Nicole Jomantas | n.jomantas@usfencing.org | (719) 866-4511
QUALIFICATION
Team USA will qualify for a spot in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games at the 2015 Parapan American Games. This will be the sport’s first appearance at that competition.

SELECTION
Selection criteria for the 2016 U.S. Paralympic Wheelchair Rugby Team has not been finalized.

KEY DATES
2014
Oct. 3-11  Australian World Champions at the Lakeshore Foundation (Homewood, Alabama)

2015
Aug. 7-15  2015 Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)
Sept. 4-Oct. 17  IRB Rugby World Cup and World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge at the Copper Box (London, England)

MEDIA CONTACT
Jen Remick | jenr@lakeshore.org | (205) 313-7417
QUALIFICATION
The wheelchair tennis competition at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games includes six medal events, singles and doubles in the male, female and quad divisions, for up to 104 athletes. The U.S. can be allocated a maximum of four male and four female qualification slots for athletes competing in the men’s and women’s events, and no more than three qualification slots in the quad sport class for a maximum quota allocation of 11 qualification slots. Qualification slots are allocated to the individual athlete, not the National Paralympic Committee.

The winner of the men’s and women’s singles competitions from the 2015 Parapan American Games will earn a qualification slot. The top 34 ranked male athletes and top 22 ranked female athletes not otherwise qualified on the International Tennis Federation Wheelchair Tennis Singles World Ranking List dated May 23, 2016, qualify, as well as the top 12 ranked quad athletes.

Twelve eligible male athletes, eight eligible female athletes and four eligible athletes in the quad class will be considered by the IPC and the ITF for Bipartite Commission Invitation qualification slots. To be considered for a Bipartite Commission Invitation, the ITF must receive an official application in writing from the relevant NPC by June 7, 2016. In order to ensure the strongest possible doubles competition, a maximum of eight eligible male athletes will be considered by ITF and the International Paralympic Committee. These players will also be eligible to enter the men’s singles event. The ITF must receive an official application in writing from the relevant NPC by June 7, 2016.

SELECTION
The United States Tennis Association has not released the official selection procedures for the 2016 U.S. Paralympic Wheelchair Tennis Team.

KEY DATES
2015
Aug. 7-15 Parapan American Games (Toronto, Canada)

MEDIA CONTACT
Tom LaDue | ladue@usta.com | (914) 697-2352
Qualification procedures and selection criteria outlined in this guide are current as of Sept. 2, 2014, but may not be final. The guide is intended to be an overview of qualification procedures and selection criteria but detailed versions will be available in the lead-up to the 2016 Paralympic Games.

Complete qualification procedures for each sport contested at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games can be downloaded through the International Paralympic Committee website at http://www.paralympic.org/rio-2016/qualification/.

As selection criteria for each 2016 U.S. Paralympic Team becomes finalized, it can be found on the U.S. Paralympics website at USParalympics.org as well as the websites for the National Governing Bodies and/or High Performance Management Organizations that oversee each sport.