

**United States Olympic Committee**



**ATHLETE  
SELECTION PROCEDURE FORM**

**for the**

**2010 PARALYMPIC GAMES**

**October, 2 2008**



**USA HOCKEY  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2010 WINTER PARALYMPICS  
ICE SLED HOCKEY  
October 2, 2008**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

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

1. Citizenship:

Athletes must be a citizen of the United States at the time of selection and hold a valid passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

2. Minimum international federation (IF) standards for participation:

Paralympic Classification – To compete in the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games (the “Games”) each athlete must be classified by the IPC International Paralympic Committee as eligible to compete in Ice Sled Hockey with Paralympic Permanent Status (PPS) or Paralympic Review Status (PRS).

A description of sport-specific classification requirements can be found at the IPC website: [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org) or specifically at [http://www.paralympic.org/release/Main\\_Sections\\_Menu/Classification/Sport\\_Specific\\_Classification/](http://www.paralympic.org/release/Main_Sections_Menu/Classification/Sport_Specific_Classification/).

3. Other Requirements:

Paralympic Classification – To ensure fair Team selection and to ensure that athletes named to the Team are eligible to compete at the Games, USOC requires that all athletes be classified by the relevant International Paralympic Sport Federation for competition at the Paralympic Games (I.A.2 – above) by February 10, 2010.

Athletes must be members in good standing with the USA Hockey

B. Tryout Events:

1. Provide the event names, dates and location 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 in July, 2009 in Rochester, NY. The exact dates of these trials will be published at least thirty (30) days prior to the event on the USA Hockey website at: [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com).



2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any “preliminary or qualifying” events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the trials, events or camps listed above in B. 1 (if any). NA

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

As a team sport, a variety of criteria, both objective and subjective, must be used. 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 players’ selection.

The USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team will be named by the Player Evaluation Committee, listed below, after the open USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team tryout in July, 2009 in Rochester, NY. The National Team will be seventeen (17) athletes, consisting of fifteen (15) players and two (2) goaltenders.

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, 2009 and February 10, 2010, when nominations to the Paralympic Team must be submitted to the USOC. All evaluations during above stated time frame will include the use of the USA Hockey Sled Team Individual Player Report form, (Attachment A), as well as evaluating the following:

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

The Player Evaluation Committee will determine the Paralympic Team athlete nominations per IPC regulations on or before February 10, 2010. This team will consist of fifteen (15) athletes, including thirteen (13) players and two (2) goaltenders. Preference will be given but not assured to athletes named to the 2009/10 National Sled Hockey Team.

Should illness or injury occur, USA Hockey may replace a member of the USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team or the 2010 Paralympic Team with an athlete who did not



attend the open USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team tryout in July, 2009, but who has participated in past Paralympic Games and/or World Championships where that athlete is the best qualified replacement according to the criteria outlined in section I.C above.

- D. Provide the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the names and titles of the current members.

Player Evaluation Committee:

JJ O’Conner	Team General Manager
Dan Brennan	Team Director Player Personnel
Ray Maluta	Head Coach
Bill Corbo	Assistant Coach
TBD	Athlete Representative (as determined by Jim Johannson, Assistant Executive Director of USA Hockey Operations)

Any members of the committee for whom a direct conflict of interest arises, in relation to overseeing the selection process, will recuse him/herself from the committee, and will be replaced on the committee with another person (or, in the case of an athlete, an athlete named by the USOC Athletes Advisory Council prior to any necessary committee vote.

**II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

- A. 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 the 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 selection of the best athletes who will work together as an effective team and contribute to team success.

- B. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used:  
See Section I. C.
- C. Discretionary Selection Committee  
Same as Player Evaluation Committee - See section I. D.

**III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- A. 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:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to USA Hockey's Executive Director.
- Injury or illness as certified by an approved USA Hockey physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his illness or injury by an approved USA Hockey physician (or medical staff), his injury will be assumed to be disabling and he may be removed.
- Violation of USA Hockey Code of Conduct. (Attachment B)
- He is re-classified by IPC Sled Hockey such that he is no longer eligible to compete at the Paralympic Games

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Hockey's Constitution and Bylaws as mentioned in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, Article 10, (pages 82-113) or the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- B. After acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team under the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures. This occurs no earlier than 45 days and no later than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the Games (unless expressly waived by the USOC).

A Team member who is accepted by the USOC is subject to the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

- C. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, IPC, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

#### **IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

- A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:

Replacement pool athletes will be made up of all athletes that attended the open USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team tryout in July, 2009 as well as athletes that have competed in past Paralympic Games and or World Championships.

- B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected, should a vacancy occur:
- i. prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:  
The players will be selected based on positional need by the criteria set forth in Section I.C. with selection made by the Player Evaluation Committee.
  - ii. after acceptance of nominations by the USOC  
The players will be selected based on positional need by the criteria set forth in



Section I.C. with selection made by the Player Evaluation Committee.

C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:

The Player Evaluation Committee

i. Group or committee who determines the replacement pool:

The Player Evaluation Committee

ii. Group or committee who determines a replacement to the Team:

a. prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

The Player Evaluation Committee

b. after acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

The Player Evaluation Committee

## **V. 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 Ceremonies of the Games.

## **VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2010 Winter Paralympic Games and are included as attachments:

USA Hockey Code of Conduct – Attachment B

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

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

A. NGB/PSO 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.

B. NGB/PSO Official Publication (if any): USA Hockey Magazine

## **VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before February 10, 2010

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

After February 10, 2010, the players nominated to the 2010 Winter Paralympic Team for USA Hockey National Sled Team will be required to participate in various camps and competitions leading up to the 2010 Winter Paralympic Games.



**X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, IPC, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in out of competition testing as required by the IOC, WADA, IPC, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

**XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

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

Joe Walsh	Managing Director, USOC Paralympic Division
Stacey Wooley	Assoc. Director Winter Sports, USOC Paralympic Division
Jim Johannson	USA Hockey Asst. Executive Director Hockey Operations
Mike McNeill	Athlete Representative

**XII. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USA Hockey Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in the USA Hockey Annual Guide (pages 82-113) which is all available at: [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com)

**XIII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC and or IPC rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC 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.

**XIV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Hockey may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: John W. Ruger by:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at [john.ruger@usoc.org](mailto:john.ruger@usoc.org)
- [www.888athlete.org](http://www.888athlete.org)



**XV. NGB/PSO/PSO SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF and/or CF (PAG only), if applicable, standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Hockey.**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
USOC Managing Director	Joe Walsh		
USA Hockey National Program Director	Jim Johannson		
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Cindy Curley		

\*If 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 AAC Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures and certifies that the Selection Procedures submitted represent the method approved by the NGB/PSO. If the AAC 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 Sport Partnerships Team or U.S. Paralympics representative.





**Attachment A**

**USAH Sled Team Individual Player Report**



## Attachment B

### USA SLED 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 Sled 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 Paralympic Committee (IPC) 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 IIHF 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.

ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

I may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman,  
toll free at 888.ATHLETE (888.284.5383) or [John.Ruger@usoc.org](mailto:John.Ruger@usoc.org)  
for further information regarding my rights under this Code  
that are not answered by USA Hockey.



**PARTICIPANTS' AFFIRMATION**

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      Date

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**NGB Name      Sport**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARENT/GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION</b> <b>(For Participants under the Age of 18 as of Date of Signature)</b></p>
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Signature      Date

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Relationship (Parent or Guardian)