

**U.S. Paralympics Swimming  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2023 World Para Swimming Championships  
Manchester, United Kingdom  
February 10, 2023**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2023 World Para Swimming Championships 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 2023 World Para Swimming (WPS) Championships in Manchester, United Kingdom July 31 – August 6, 2023.

1.1.1. Minimum World Para Swimming standards for participation:

Any competitor in the WPS Championships must be a national of the country of 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, the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1).

2023 WPS Championships Qualification Criteria:

<https://www.paralympic.org/swimming/manchester-2023>

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

1. Hold an active World Para Swimming (WPS) Athlete License for the 2023 season;
2. Be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Status of (I) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2024 or later\*;
3. Have achieved a Minimum Qualification Standard (“MQS”) at a 50m World Para Swimming Recognized Competition (as defined in the World Para Swimming Rules & Regulations) for the respective event

(included relay events) between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (inclusive);\*\* and

4. Have achieved a MQS in accordance with the World Para Swimming Athlete Registration and Licensing Regulations valid for the 2022 or 2023 seasons.\*\*

\*In relation to criterion 2 above, NPCs are permitted to provisionally select athletes with a Sport Class Status of (i) Review; (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2023 or earlier; and (iii) New, subject to such athletes fulfilling the other qualification requirements above and attending an Evaluation Session prior to or during the Championships (including any required in-competition Observation Assessment).

\*\*Exceptions may be granted to criteria 3 and 4 above through the Wild Card entry method and for Direct Invitations.

1.1.2. Other requirements (if any):

- Any athlete aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete aged 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:

2023 Para Swimming World Series USA  
April 20 – 22, 2023  
Minneapolis, MN

All information, including entry requirements and deadlines for the 2023 Para Swimming World Series USA will be posted on the U.S. Para Swimming website once finalized:

<https://www.teamusa.org/usparaswimming/competitions>

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

Athletes must achieve a qualifying standard from a WPS recognized competition (per WPS rule 3.2.1) between January 1, 2022 and the entry deadline for the 2023 Para Swimming World Series USA as listed in the meet information packet (March 22, 2023), to compete at the event.

The meet information packets will be available at <https://www.teamusa.org/usparaswimming/competitions>

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

NPCs can enter a maximum of three (3) eligible swimmers per event if all have met the Minimum Qualification Standard (MQS) or Minimum Entry Time (MET).

NPCs may enter athletes that have met at least one (1) MQS in an unlimited number of event events provided the athlete meets the MET for any additional event(s) entered.

NPCs may enter two (2) relay teams per relay event. If an NPC has more than one (1) relay team competing in a relay event, only one (1) can proceed to the finals. The relay team which proceeds to the final is the one with the fastest time.

Team Size: U.S. Paralympics Swimming will field a team size up to twenty-five (25) athletes. The final team size will be determined by implementing the selection criteria detailed herein.

Direct Invitation (any direct invitation slots will not count towards the maximum team size of twenty-five (25)): World Para Swimming reserves the right to directly invite a limited number of athletes under the following criteria:

- To enable the greater representation by a nation.
- To ensure events featured on the program have sufficient representation for viability.
- To enable greater representation by gender.
- To ensure the further representation of athletes with high support needs
- To ensure top athletes that may have not had the opportunity to formally qualify due to extraordinary circumstances.

- To ensure new athletes that may have not had the opportunity to be formally classified due to extraordinary circumstances.

All direct invitation slots are at the sole discretion of World Para Swimming, and World Para Swimming has no obligation to award any direct invitation slots, regardless of whether or not NPCs/athletes meet the criteria above. At its sole discretion, World Para Swimming may waive qualification criteria 3 and 4 in section 3 above related to MQS times for athletes granted a Direct Invitation slot. Direct Invitation slots will not be offered after the final entry list being published at the end of June 2023.

**Wild Card Entry:**

Relay-Only Athletes: NPCs may apply for a Wild Card slot for one relay-specific athlete to be added to their team for each of the relay events. This athlete may not participate in any other events beyond the relay events. Such an application may only be made and accepted if the NPC does not have a sufficient number of qualified eligible athletes to make a team for that relay event.

**1.3.1. Team Selection**

Athletes will be nominated to the Team in rank order from the lowest percentage to the highest percentage using the Team Selection Ranking List (TSRL). Team slots and start rights will be filled concurrently in order of the TSRL (lowest to highest percentage) for the events on the Manchester 2023 WPS Championships program. Team slots and start rights will be filled concurrently from all results with percentages less than or equal to 100.00% on the TSRL.

- Team Selection Ranking List (TSRL): Only events on the Manchester 2023 WPS Championships program will be considered for selection. The TSRL will be created from the results, both preliminaries and finals, at the 2023 Para Swimming World Series USA. Swimmers who have a result in a higher sport class that meets MQS for the respective sport class, for an event not offered within their own sport class may also be selected.
  - NOTE: Any athlete that has had a change in sport class(es) during the 2023 Para Swimming World Series USA will have their final sport class(es) as published on the classification outcome results posted by the WPS Chief Classifier, used in the TSRL.
- Times will be converted to a “Result” by expressing them as a percentage of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place ranking in the WPS World Rankings, which can be found at <https://www.paralympic.org/swimming/rankings>. The WPS World Ranking list will include results from January 1, 2022 through April 19, 2023 for the respective event(s). An event refers to the competition

within a Paralympic sport class that is on the program for the Manchester 2023 World Para Swimming Championships – e.g. the Women’s S10 50m Freestyle. Each Result will be rounded to the nearest one hundredth of a percent. Lower percentages are better than higher percentages (97.01% beats 99.08% beats 104.60%).

$$\text{Result} = (\text{finish time}/3\text{rd place on WPS World Rankings}) \times 100$$

### 1.3.2. Discretion

If slots remain following implementation of step 1.3.1, up to four (4) slots may, but are not required to, be nominated to the Team per discretionary selection (Section 2). Start rights for athletes selected in section 1.3.2. will be filled concurrently at the time of nomination.

### 1.3.3. TSRL

If slots remain following step 1.3.2., those slots will be filled utilizing the TSRL from 1.3.1 starting at 100.01%. Athletes will be nominated to the Team in Rank order from lowest percentage to highest percentage up to 102.00%. Swimmers with a result equal to or above 102.01% will not be named to the Team regardless of the number of slots remaining.

### 1.3.4. Tie Breaking Procedures

If a tie exists for the final team slot or for a final event start right at any point during the implementation of these procedures, the TSRL percentages will be calculated to three decimal points (rounded to the one-thousandth of a percent).

If a tie persists for the final team slot or for a final event start right following the above percentage re-calculation to the one-thousandth, the relevant swimmers will be ranked in order of each swimmer’s percent comparison (“P”) to the WPS World Record in that event as of April 19, 2023.

$$P = (\text{swim time}/\text{World Record}) \times 100$$

All comparisons will be rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of a percent. A lower comparison (P=101.401%) is better than a higher comparison (P=102.789%). The swimmer with the lowest comparison will be nominated to the Team and/or the start right.

### Additional Start Rights

Start rights remaining open after all slots have been filled may be assigned by the U.S. Paralympics Swimming Staff to eligible athletes already nominated to the Team. In assigning start rights, the U.S. Paralympics Swimming Staff will consult with the athlete and the athlete's coach(es). The following factors may be considered when assigning additional start rights (in no particular order):

- The desire of the athlete to start the event.
- The athlete's number and schedule of events.
- The likelihood of the athlete winning a medal in the event.
- The athlete's ranking in the event on the WPS World Ranking list.
- Other historical performances in the event.

### Relays

U.S. Para Swimming will select athletes eligible for relays based on results from April 20, 2023 to the deadline to submit the relay forms at Manchester 2023 WPS World Championships. Athletes must have a result from a WPS approved competition in the distance and stroke they intend to compete in to be eligible for selection to the relay. U.S. Para Swimming Staff in consultation with the World Championships coaching staff will create a mix of the fastest combinations per WPS Rules for relay configuration.

Considerations that may be taken into account for relay selection:

- Individual athletes' performances in the respective event(s) at World Championships that comprise the relay.
- Building a team that is likely to medal in the event, while also complying with the WPS relay composition rules.
- The number and schedule of individual events for athletes at the Manchester 2023 World Para Swimming Championships.

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

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

The rationale for discretionary selection is to allow U.S. Paralympics Swimming the ability to nominate the best physically, psychologically, and technically prepared athletes to the Manchester 2023 WPS Championships.

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

The U.S. Paralympics Discretionary Selection Committee will consider the following performance-related factors (in no particular order) in selecting athletes to the Team:

- a. The athlete experienced an injury or illness that impeded maximal performance or attendance during the 2023 Para Swimming World Series USA.
- b. A minimum of one top three result/ranking on the Manchester 2023 World Para Swimming MQS ranking list.
- c. A minimum of one top three podium finish at the Madeira 2022 World Para Swimming Championships, in an event on the Manchester 2023 World Championships program.
- d. The ability to produce medal capable performances at the Manchester 2023 WPS Championships.

2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, or other decisions/recommendations directly impacting athletes, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

U.S. Paralympics Discretionary Selection Committee

Director, U.S. Paralympics Swimming  
Director, U.S. Paralympics  
Manager, Sport Operations (1)  
Athlete Representative (2)

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 the USOPC Conflict of Interest Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USOPC's Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it consistent with the USOPC's Conflict of Interest Policy prior to the start of the selection process. 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 or could be perceived to compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in a fair and impartial manner. If an actual, potential, or perceived conflict exists, the internally managed sport team should send the disclosure to the Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer and the Sr. Director, Compliance Investigations and Ethics (collectively, the Ethics team) to share with the Ethics & Compliance Committee for review and disposition. For example, if a Selection Committee member may be required to recuse him/herself from voting, but that individual may still be able to provide relevant or necessary information concerning athlete performance in a fair and impartial manner. The Selection Committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee during 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 the USOPC's Ethics team. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). 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 the USOPC's internally managed sport selection committee appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

3.1 An athlete who is nominated to the Team by U.S. Paralympics Swimming may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by U.S. Paralympics Swimming:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the U.S. Paralympics Swimming Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by U.S. Paralympics Swimming. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by U.S. Paralympics Swimming, 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 U.S. Paralympics Code of Conduct (<https://www.teamusa.org/usparaswimming/athlete-information>).



- 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/IF of the event in which the athlete qualified for the team from the medal event program of the 2023 World Para Swimming Championships.
- 3.1.7. Change in the athlete's sport class(es) following team selection, such that:
  - 3.1.7.1.1. The athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team: and/or
  - 3.1.7.1.2. The athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IPC/WPS.

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

- 3.2. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, WADA, WPS, 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, 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 WPS and the WPS Championships Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The replacement pool of athletes will be comprised of all swimmers who meet a Manchester 2023 World Para Swimming Championships MQS in a selection event during the 2023 Para Swimming World Series USA.

The procedures described in Section 1.3 will be applied and the next highest ranked athlete as per the TSRL will be nominated to the Team.

Replacements will not be gender specific.
  - 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to WPS and the WPS Championships Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

No replacement of athletes will occur

## 5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

U.S. Paralympics Swimming 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 Manchester 2023 WPS Championships.

## 6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Manchester 2023 World Para Swimming Championships (include as attachments or provide links):

- U.S. Paralympics Code of Conduct for U.S. Paralympics National Teams and Paralympic Programs (Please click this link to access <https://www.teamusa.org/usparaswimming/athlete-information>)
- USOPC Complaint Procedures for U.S. Paralympics National Teams and Paralympic Programs (Please click this link to access <https://www.teamusa.org/usparaswimming/athlete-information>)
- U.S. Paralympics National Team Agreement or Non-National Team Agreement

## 7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by U.S. Paralympics Swimming in the following public location(s):

7.1. U.S. Paralympics Swimming Web site: [www.usparaswimming.org](http://www.usparaswimming.org)

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

## 8. DATE OF ENTRY TO WPS

The Athlete Entry Form will be submitted to WPS on or before:  
**June 1, 2023**

<https://www.paralympic.org/swimming/manchester-2023>

## 9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

The location, schedule and duration of any mandatory training will be announced and posted on the website at least 30 days prior to the start of the mandatory training and/or competitions. Mandatory training will be published [HERE](#).

While waivers for any mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, waivers will primarily be granted only for illness, injury or other incapacity, or for personal/family emergency. All selections to the team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations well in advance of team activities. Requests for a waiver may be submitted in writing to the Director, U.S. Paralympics Swimming for review. A written response to all requests will be issued to the athlete within 72 hours of the request

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

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, WADA, WPS, 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, WPS, 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:

Erin Popovich – Director, U.S. Paralympics Swimming  
Jamie Martin – Director, U.S. Paralympics Operation  
Kyle McKinnis – Director, U.S. Paralympics Performance  
Joe Wise – AAC  
Amanda Everlove – Alternate AAC

## **12. USOPC BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USOPC Bylaws and Grievance Procedures for U.S. Paralympics Swimming can be found at: <https://www.teamusa.org/usparaswimming/athlete-information>

## **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IPC, as applicable, and/or WPS rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, as applicable, and/or WPS rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to U.S. Paralympics Swimming. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures 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 U.S. Paralympics Swimming.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:



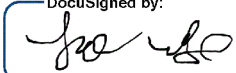
PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

**15. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF 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 U.S. Paralympics Swimming.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
U.S. Paralympics Senior Vice President	Julie Dusliere		February 10, 2023
U.S. Paralympics Swimming Director	Erin Popovich	DocuSigned by:  9272CF3B892B4F5...	February 14, 2023   3:58:42
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Joe Wise	DocuSigned by:  3E53B57FA06E4D4...	February 14, 2023   4:37:02

\* 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 U.S. Paralympics Swimming, 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, U.S. Paralympics Swimming must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.