

USA TABLE TENNIS (USATT)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2016 PARALYMPIC GAMES
TABLE TENNIS
~~November 17, 2015~~
Amended January 21, 2016

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

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

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or 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 IOC Charter (Rule 42), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO) Statutes (Article XXII, Sections 4 and 5).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

- be ranked on the ITTF Para Table Tennis (PTT) World Rating List closing 31 December 2015;
- meet the requirements of the ITTF Tournament Credit System (1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015);
- be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a member in good standing with USA Table Tennis (USATT) and with their USA Table Tennis Membership not expiring until 31 December 2016.
- Athletes must have successfully completed all USOC Games Registration requirements by deadline.

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

N/A- The qualification slot is allocated to the individual athlete, not to the NPC therefore no Trials or selection events will occur outside of what is published within the qualification guide.

- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in Section 1.2.1. (if any).

N/A

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

Qualification slots are allocated to the individual athlete, not to the NPC per the Rio Qualification Guide. The Qualification Guide can be found at:

http://www.rio2016.com/sites/default/files/users/rio2016_files/table-tennis-paralympics.pdf

An NPC can enter a maximum of three (3) eligible athletes per event.

ITTF PTT World Rating List: (<http://www.ipttc.org/rating/>)

A description of how athletes accumulate points towards their Rating can be found at: <http://www.ipttc.org/rating/ptt-rating-system.pdf>

An NPC can enter a maximum of one (1) eligible team per team event, comprising a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) eligible athletes entered in individual events.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

- 2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation:

The IPC may award Bipartite slots for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games using the Bipartite Invitation Allocation Method. The IPC awards these slots by name. Bipartite slots are allocated by the IPC based on the principles below (in no particular priority order):

- to ensure the participation of top athletes who may have not had the opportunity to formally qualify through other methods due to extraordinary circumstances;
- to ensure the representation of athletes with a severe impairment;
- to ensure medal events will have sufficient representation for viability;
- and
- to enable greater representation by gender.

Prior to awarding Bipartite slots the IPC may invite each National Paralympic Committee to submit an application requesting that an athlete or athletes be considered for a Bipartite slot. U.S. Paralympics on behalf of USA Table Tennis may, but is not required to, submit an application for a Bipartite slot depending on whether or not, as determined by the USATT Paralympic Bipartite Selection Committee (See Section 2.3), there are athlete candidates who meet the above principles and who are capable of a top three (podium) result, can positively impact Team performance, or are considered to be on track to produce a top three (podium) result in the near future. The selection of a particular athlete for submission to the IPC/ITTF for a Bipartite slot will be based on the above and on the discretionary selection criteria set forth in Section 2.2. The USATT Paralympic Bipartite Selection Committee (See Section 2.3) shall be responsible for making any such selection.

If the IPC/ITTF awards a Bipartite slot to an athlete by name, U.S. Paralympics will accept such athlete to the Team.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any).

a) USATT would automatically nominate bipartite slots for any athlete placed on the ITTF's "2016 Rio Pre-Selection" list as an alternate. This list can be found at: www.ipttc.org with all Bipartite Invitation Allocation information.

b) USATT would nominate one athlete per gender for a bipartite invitation to be submitted to the IPC/ ITTF by the published deadline per the following criteria:

- Finish at the 2015 Parapan American Games.

- If two or more athletes have the same result at the 2015 Parapan American Games but in different classes, the athlete with the higher ITTF PTT World Rating List rank as of 31 December 2015 will be selected. If a tie still exists, the USATT High Performance Committee (HPC)(See Section 11) will select the athlete with the best performance at an ITTF sanctioned event when considering all events that earn athletes points towards their rank on the ITTF PTT World Rating List. Best performance is defined as most points earned.
- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

USATT Paralympic Bipartite Selection Committee

Carl Danner- HPC Chair

Sean O'Neill- Media Director and 2012 Paralympic Coach

Ross Brown- 2015 Parapan American Games Team Leader

Mitchell Seidenfeld- Athlete Representative

Jasna Rather – Para Program Director

- 2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but 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 the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the NGB/HPMO has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the NGB/HPMO may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by the NGB/HPMO:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the NGB/HPMO CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB/HPMO. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB/HPMO, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the NGB's/HPMO's Code of Conduct (Attachment A).
- 3.1.4. Re-classification by the IPC/IF such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him or her for the Team.
- 3.1.5. Removal by the IPC/IF of the event in which the athlete qualified for the Team from the program of the Rio Paralympic Games.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB's/HPMO's Bylaws (<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/usatt/bylaws>) and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable NGB/HPMO Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Resources/Code-of-Conduct>

<http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

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:

Determined by the ITTF.

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

Determined by the ITTF.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Table Tennis 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 USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Paralympic Games and are included as attachments:

USATT Code of Conduct (Attachment A)
Paralympic Athlete Agreement (Attachment B)

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USA Table Tennis in the following locations:

- 7.1. NGB/HPMO Web site: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Table-Tennis>

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

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

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

30 May 2016

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

Paralympic Team camp (Fort Worth, TX) – March 2016 (8 days)*
ITTF Para Italian Open (Lignano, Italy) – March 2016 (7 days)*
ITTF Para Slovenia Open (Lasko, Slovenia) – May 2016 (8 days)
Paralympic Team camp (Lasko Slovenia) – May 2016 (5 days)
ITTF Para Slovakia Open (Bratislava, Slovakia) – May 2016 (5 days)
ITTF Para Romania Open (Cluj, Romania) – June 2016 (8 days)
ITTF Para Spain Open (El Prat De Llobregat, Spain) – June 2016 (7 days)
US Open (Las Vegas, NV) – July 2016 (6 days)
Paralympic Team camp (TBD) – August 2016 (10 days)
Paralympic Games (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) – August/ September 2016

* exception will be made for athlete(s) who receive a bipartite invitation

All dates and locations to be confirmed no later than 30 days prior to the start of the camp and/or competition.

If any of above mentioned tournaments and camps are not fully funded by USATT for athletes qualified for Paralympics, they will not be mandatory.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

USATT High Performance Committee:

Carl Danner – Chair

Attila Malek – USATT Board Member (former National Team member)

Sean O’Neill – Media Director and Former Para NT Coach (Olympian 1988 and 1992)

Jacqueline Lee – Athlete representative

Tahl Leibovitz – Para Athlete Representative (Paralympic Medalist 1996 and 2004)

Jasna Rather – Para Program Director (Olympic Medalist 1988 and 4 times Olympian)

12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USATT Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/usatt/bylaws>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or ITTF Para Division rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or ITTF Para Division rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USATT. 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 will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.

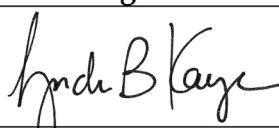
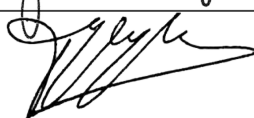

14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USATT may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at Kacie.wallace@usoc.org
- <http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

15. NGB/HPMO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PAG/PPAG only) 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 USATT.

| Position | Print Name | Signature | Date |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------|
| Gordon Kaye USATT CEO/Executive Director | Gordon B. Kaye |  | 1/25/2016 |
| Teodor Gheorghe USATT High Performance Director | Teodor Gheorghe |  | 1/25/2016 |
| Karin Korb USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative* | Karin Korb |  | 1/30/2016 |

* If the 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 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/HPMO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOC AAC Representative, the NGB/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.