Qualification for the Junior and Cadet National Teams will be via this process, which will culminate in a fight off unless one athlete has demonstrated competitive dominance:
To qualify for the fight off the athlete must meet age and nationality requirements as set forth by World Taekwondo. Additionally, the athlete’s U.S. passport must have more than six month’s of validity remaining at the time of travel to the competition.

The only circumstance under which the Fight Off will not take place is if a single athlete is successful in winning gold at four of the bottom right listed criteria in the same division, or winning gold at 3 of the bottom right as well as being the #1 ranked in points, becoming Dominant Athlete and claiming the National Team position automatically.

If any listed event does not happen due to covid, or if World Taekwondo announces the event before Grand Prix Final can occur, medalists from the other listed events will fight off for the Cadet and Junior World Championships National Team quota.

Fight off will occur approximately 12 weeks before the first published weigh-in date of the Cadet and Junior World Championships.

(An Invitation will be sent out to the athletes who qualified for the fight-off 2 weeks before the event)

Weight Class Changes:
USATKD recognizes Cadet and Junior athletes may have weight fluctuations over this period of time for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, growth spurt and/or returning to training. To protect the athletes health, Cadet and Juniors athletes will be allowed to move down one weight or up any number of weight classes to qualify for the fight off through the current year’s major events, provided there is no Dominant Athlete in that division.

If an athlete changes weight division after qualifying for the fight off in one division, their points will remain in the previous qualifying weight division and will enter the fight off in the newly selected division unseeded.

If an athlete qualifies for the fight off in more than one division they will only be allowed to enter into one division for the fight off.

Age Changes:
If athlete ages up from Cadet to Junior division and qualifies for the fight off via the current year’s pathway events, he or she may select the division to enter for the fight off in the Junior Division, provided there’s no Dominant Athlete in that division. The aging up athlete will enter the fight off unseeded.

Competition Format:
If a division has 5 or less athletes the fight off for the National Team spot will be a round robin format. If a division has 6 or more athletes there will be a seeded single elimination tournament.

2005 Athlete Rule:
Due to the delay of World Championships from 2021 to 2022, an additional number of athletes are subsequently eligible for the World Championship Team, who were previously ruled out due to age. In order to be fair and inclusive of all eligible athletes, anyone who is eligible for the Senior World Championship team (born 2005 and earlier) who have a ranking in the junior or senior division will be allowed to compete in the Senior Grand Slam. (Athletes who are still eligible to compete as a junior may also compete in the Junior Grand Slam).

MAJOR EVENTS
1) #1 Ranked in points
2) Grand Slam
3) Grand Prix Final
4) Nationals
5) WT Sanctioned international event in 2021 or 2022