CREATE THE FUTURE...
USA Taekwondo believes that providing guidance to athletes and coaches at all stages of an athlete's career is very important. This document lays out the National Team Pathway for an athlete to earn a spot on the postponed Senior 2021 Wuxi World Championships Team in 2021. (Dates TBD) in Wuxi, China, giving them the best preparation in terms of both training and competition experience, in order to be ready for this important international competition.

Athletes are advised to work towards three target goals, listed at the bottom of this page. Concise details on how to achieve each goal can be found on the following pages. USA Taekwondo is committed to assisting all athletes and coaches who are striving to meet these goals.

Working within the Athlete Academy will be a great opportunity, but you can still achieve everything you want without participating, however we believe the Academy offers incredible benefits to the athletes and their coaches, so we encourage you to take full advantage of this new and valuable benefit being offered.

We wish you the best of luck, and are eager to help you every step of the way, as you work to make your taekwondo dreams come true.

If you have any questions about this process after reading please email may.spence@usa-taekwondo.us - we will publish an FAQ with answers shortly.

1. Be selected for entry into the USA Taekwondo Athlete Academy
2. Qualify for the U.S. Senior National Team Roster
3. Become a National Team Member for the 2021 Wuxi World Championships
USA Taekwondo Major Tournaments?

The Majors are an exciting new concept designed to provide a clear and transparent pathway to qualification for both the Athlete Academy AND the National Team for all Cadet, Junior and Senior World Class Black Belt athletes.

Whenever you see the “Major Tournament” logo/classification on an event poster, or our event calendar, you will know that winning gets you a place in the U.S. Athlete Academy AND on the new National Team Roster*, from which all National Team members will be named in the future! You can also claim a spot in the Academy by impressing the National Team coaches in Talent ID camps and tournaments. You will find further details on these programs on the following pages.

USA Taekwondo is committed to ensuring that U.S. athletes have enough reason and opportunity to compete regularly, and at a consistently high level, to ensure that they are as prepared as possible when entering major international competition. “The Majors” concept is being introduced to provide incentive to athletes with a National Team goal to compete to win against high quality opposition, along with an assurance that you are signing up for a top quality event.

If an event is given Major Tournament status you can be sure of the following:

1. The event will be professionally run
2. The event will strictly follow World Taekwondo competition rules on match length and ring size
3. The competition will be tough - we will not name ANY tournament a Major if we do not believe athletes of significant quality will be in attendance to compete against

USA Taekwondo believes in our athletes and will do everything possible to help YOU maximize your potential and achieve greatness. It’s time to Create the Future, together.

*If any division is won by a non-U.S. athlete the results of the best U.S. finisher will be considered for inclusion in the Athlete Academy, and the highest placed US medalist that loses to the gold medalist will qualify for the National Team Roster. However only a gold medal will count towards dominant athlete status. If the cut off date for qualifying for a National Team Event happens prior to a listed Major Tournament then that Major Tournament will no longer be a qualifying event. Cut off date for qualifying for a National Team Event will be 12 weeks prior to the first weigh in date unless otherwise stated.

SELECTED EVENTS

2021 Sr. Pan Am Championships
Cancun, Mexico June 4-9

2021 Mexico Open
Cancun, Mexico June 10-11

Your path to the Athlete Academy & National Team!
Once you make the U.S. Senior National Team Roster you will be eligible for a spot on the U.S. Senior National Team! In preparation, National Team Coaches will work with you and your home coach to ensure you are as ready as you can be for the step up to international level competition. This preparation will consist of quarterly National Team Roster Training Camps, where you will work with the National Team Coaches, and you will be provided with a training plan to work on when back with your home coach. Details of final qualification for the Team Spot are on the next pages - please read them CAREFULLY to make sure you and your coach understand the process fully!
If a major event does not happen in the qualifying period (12 weeks prior to the first published weigh in date), the dominant athlete will be determined by winning a gold medal at the remaining 3/4 major events or 2 major gold medals plus the #1 ranked athlete in that division.

No dominant athlete = fight off 12 weeks before hand with invites going out 14 weeks before hand.

-57kg FEMALE DIVISION

-57kg female athlete Anastasija Zolotic automatically qualified for the World Championship Team in the -57kg division via her gold medal earned at the Tokyo Olympic Games, any athletes who were vying for the -57kg quota may move up (-62kg) or down (-53kg) one division and enter the Grand Prix and Grand Slam Final in that division.

In the case Anastasija Zolotic must withdraw from the -57kg division before the fight off, eligible athletes via the pathways from the -53kg and -62kg division will have the opportunity for a fight off for the -57kg division.

In the case of a late withdrawal of Anastasija Zolotic (after the 10 weeks fight of date), the next highest ranked athlete in the US -57kg rankings will be named to the 2022 World Championship team.

Due to the postponement of the 2021 World Championships and athletes aging up, athletes who qualify as "year 17" athletes (born in 2005) are eligible to enter the Senior Grand Prix and Grand Slam Final, if they medaled at a qualifying event as a Junior athlete (2021 Grand Prix’s, 2021 Nationals, 2021 Grand Slam, 2022 Grand Prix Final).

Invitations to the fight off will occur 12 weeks before the first day of competition at the world championships, with the fight off occurring approximately 10 weeks before the first day of competition at the World Championships.

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 junior may also compete in the Junior Grand Slam).
The Dominant Athlete designation is a new concept for taekwondo in the United States, which rewards consistency of performance with a guaranteed National Team spot if specific criteria are met. While it will be hard to earn - and it is only available by being ranked in the top 6 of the World Taekwondo Olympic Ranking, or by winning multiple gold medals in some of the toughest competitions - it is recognition and reward for ‘dominating’ in your division, and a much more performance and data-driven method of team selection than the sport has seen employed before.

There should be no doubt - if you qualify for Team USA through this method no one will be able to say you didn’t earn it!

The requirements to qualify as a Dominant Athlete vary across the age categories, so make sure that you check the criteria for dominance for the specific competition that you are trying to qualify for (see next page).

It is possible (but unlikely) that two athletes may meet the criteria to earn Dominant Athlete status. In this case, those athletes will fight off for the National Team position.

A Dominant Athlete is an athlete who has:

1. Demonstrated recent ability to win major tournaments
2. Performed consistently by winning more than once in the previous 12 month period
3. Has an unmatched competition record in the previous 12 months

If there is no athlete demonstrating dominance in any given division, then all athletes who qualified for the National Team Roster via the methods described on the previous page will be entered into a seeded fight off for the National Team position in that division. It is important to compete in Major Tournaments even if you cannot make Dominant Athlete status, as your performance will have a significant effect on your seed in any fight off, so keep fighting!

This new system will give every athlete a fair and equal chance to prove they have what it takes to be the National Team Member, while also recognizing the very best who have proven it in the only place that matters - on the mat - and rewarding them for that dominance in competition with a highly coveted Team USA spot!
2021 Pan Am Championship Team members are exempt from attending their regional Grand Prix and will receive a waiver into the Grand Prix Final.

2021 Olympians are exempt from their regional Grand Prix and the National Championships and will receive a waiver directly into the National Championships.

A US Athlete who earns 1st place in 3 of 5 majors in the same weight division earns the Dominant Athlete status which automatically qualifies the athlete for the 2021 Wuxi World Championship Team.

If two (or more) athletes qualify for Dominant Athlete status through this method ONLY those athletes will fight off.

Reasoning behind seeding decisions will be provided to the competitors prior to the fight off.

Twelve weeks prior to the first weigh in date of the 2021 Wuxi World Championships (Oct 12-18) the results of all athletes who have qualified or been selected for the Senior National Team Roster in the previous 12 month period will be assessed by the USA Taekwondo Selection Committee to determine if any athletes have met the criteria to be named as a Dominant Athlete.

- If there is one dominant athlete in a weight division that athlete will be automatically named to the team.
- If two (or more) athletes have met the criteria to be named as Dominant Athletes a fight off will be scheduled between those athletes no later than 8 weeks prior to the first weigh in date of the 2021 Wuxi World Championships.
- If there are no dominant athletes in a division all qualified National Team Roster athletes will compete in a seeded fight off no later than 11 weeks prior to the first weigh in date of the 2021 Wuxi World Championships. There will be no limit placed on the maximum number of athletes - everyone who has qualified for the National Team Roster will be invited. For clarity, this fight off is GUARANTEED if no athlete achieves Dominant Athlete status.

If there is no dominant athlete ALL qualified Roster athletes will compete in a seeded fight off. Please note, in a fight off scenario, an athlete who qualified for the Academy as a Junior but has subsequently aged up may still be added to the National Team Qualification Roster if judged to be of sufficient quality and medal capable by the Athlete Academy coaches. This provides more opportunity for Senior National Team qualification to talented first year senior athletes.

Additionally, with agreement between the athlete, their home coach and the National Team Coaches, Athletes MAY enter the fight off in a different weight division to the one they qualified in however they will receive the lowest seed unless also proven in the new weight division.

Seeds will be determined by the selection committee, following assessment of performances in competition and training. An example of the process could be as follows:

- If Athlete A wins the US Open, Athlete B wins the National Championships.

In this case, both athletes would have a similar results record, and without further analysis, receive the same seed - in this instance, the selection committee would assess the entire record of both athletes (National and International ranking, who they have fought and beaten/lost to, tournament finishes, head to head record, etc) and make a determination on the seeding for the fight off.

The Selection Committee responsible for seeding in any fight off will be comprised of the following individuals:

- Chosen by the AAC
- Director of High Performance
- Head Coach
- Technical Director
- Non-conflicted Athlete Representative
- Non-conflicted Coach

WHO IS ON THE SELECTION COMMITTEE?
I. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1. Citizenship:
   a. Athlete meets eligibility and nationality requirements as presented by USA Taekwondo in compliance with the minimum International Federation standards for participation (Item I.A.2.).
   b. All athletes must be U.S. Citizens in order to compete.

2. Minimum IF standards for participation:
   - Holder of the nationality of the participating team.
   - One recommended by the WT National Taekwondo Association.
   - Holder of Taekwondo Dan certificate issued by the Kukkiwon or WT.

3. Other requirements:
   - Athlete must be a USA Taekwondo member in good standing.

The Senior National Team is made up of sixteen (16) athletes. One in each of the eight (8) male & eight (8) female weight divisions. All Senior National Team members must be at least 17 years old in the calendar year of the National Team event.

Weight Division Classification for the Senior National Team.

**Women’s Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Class</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not exceeding 46 kg</td>
<td>Fin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 46 kg &amp; not exceeding 49 kg</td>
<td>Fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 49 kg &amp; not exceeding 53 kg</td>
<td>Bantam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 53 kg &amp; not exceeding 57 kg</td>
<td>Feather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 57 kg &amp; not exceeding 62 kg</td>
<td>Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 62 kg &amp; not exceeding 67 kg</td>
<td>Welter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 67 kg &amp; not exceeding 73 kg</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 73 kg</td>
<td>Heavy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Men’s Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Class</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not exceeding 54 kg</td>
<td>Fin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 54 kg &amp; not exceeding 58 kg</td>
<td>Fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 58 kg &amp; not exceeding 63 kg</td>
<td>Bantam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 63 kg &amp; not exceeding 68 kg</td>
<td>Feather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 68 kg &amp; not exceeding 74 kg</td>
<td>Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 74 kg &amp; not exceeding 80 kg</td>
<td>Welter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 80 kg &amp; not exceeding 87 kg</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 87 kg</td>
<td>Heavy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Removal of Athletes

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Taekwondo may be removed from the nominations for any of the following reasons as determined by USA Taekwondo.

A. Voluntary withdrawal
   - Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Taekwondo CEO. Injury or illness as certified by a U.S. licensed physician (or medical staff), if an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USA Taekwondo physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

B. Violation of the NGB’s Code of Conduct.
   - An athlete who may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB’s Bylaws (USATKD Bylaws, Section 15, Complaint Procedures) or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

C. Violation of the NGB’s Athlete Agreement.
   - An athlete who may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB’s Bylaws (USATKD Bylaws, Section 15, Complaint Procedures) or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

D. Doping violations
   - An athlete may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB’s Bylaws (USATKD Bylaws, Section 15, Complaint Procedures) or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

III. Replacement of Athletes

A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified.
   - The athlete who places 2nd in the same weight division of the U.S. National Rankings will serve as the replacement athlete, should circumstances arise in which the 1st place athlete needs to be removed for any of the reasons listed above.

IV. Required Documents

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the U.S. National Team, and are included as attachments:

- Code of Conduct (Attachment A)
- Athlete Agreement (Attachment B)

V. Publicity/Distribution of Procedures

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

A. NGB website: www.usa-taekwondo.us

VI. Dates of Nomination

- 12 weeks before 1st weigh in date of National Team event.

VII. Mandatory Training and/or Competition:

N/A

VIII. Anti-Doping Requirements

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, WT, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures. The excludes participation in out of competition testing as required by the IOC, WADA, WT, USADA and USOC rules.

IX. Development of Selection Procedures

The following committee/group were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- Steve McNally, CEO, USA Taekwondo
- Mary Seacrest, Director of High Performance, USA Taekwondo
- Paul Green, Technical Director, USA Taekwondo
- Barbara Brand, AAC Chairwoman, USA Taekwondo

X. NGB Bylaws and Grievance Procedures

The USA Taekwondo Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in the USA Taekwondo Bylaws.

XI. International Disclaimer

These procedures are based on IOC and/or World Taekwondo (WT) rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or WT rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Taekwondo. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

XII. Athlete Ombudsman

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Taekwondo may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE
- E-mail at ombudsman@usoc.org
- www.888athlete.org

XIII. NGB Signatures

I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Taekwondo.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>PRINT NAME</th>
<th>SIGNATURE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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