

## 2023 USA Taekwondo National Poomsae Team Pathway

This document details the pathway for an athlete, pair, or team to earn a spot on the 2023 USA Taekwondo National Poomsae Team for national team events. Pathways to making the National Poomsae Team include:

1a. Compete in the following USATKD Major Poomsae Events in 2022, including the following:

2022 National Championship  
2022 Grand Prix Final  
2022 Grand Slam Championship

1b. Compete in other USATKD ranking point-earning competitions and World Taekwondo sanctioned G1 and higher events.

2. Qualify for team trials through one of the following methods:

- Domestic Pathway (achieve one of the following)
  - Medal at a 2022 USATKD Major Event
  - Highest Overall Ranking Points
  - Wild card through unanimous non-conflicted national team coach nomination
  - Highest USATKD ranking points not covered by other criteria
- International Pathway (achieve one of the following)
  - **U30 & U40, O17 Freestyle:** Achieve WT Top 20 Ranking
  - Earn at least 2 WT G-rated Gold Medals (must have one other athlete in division)

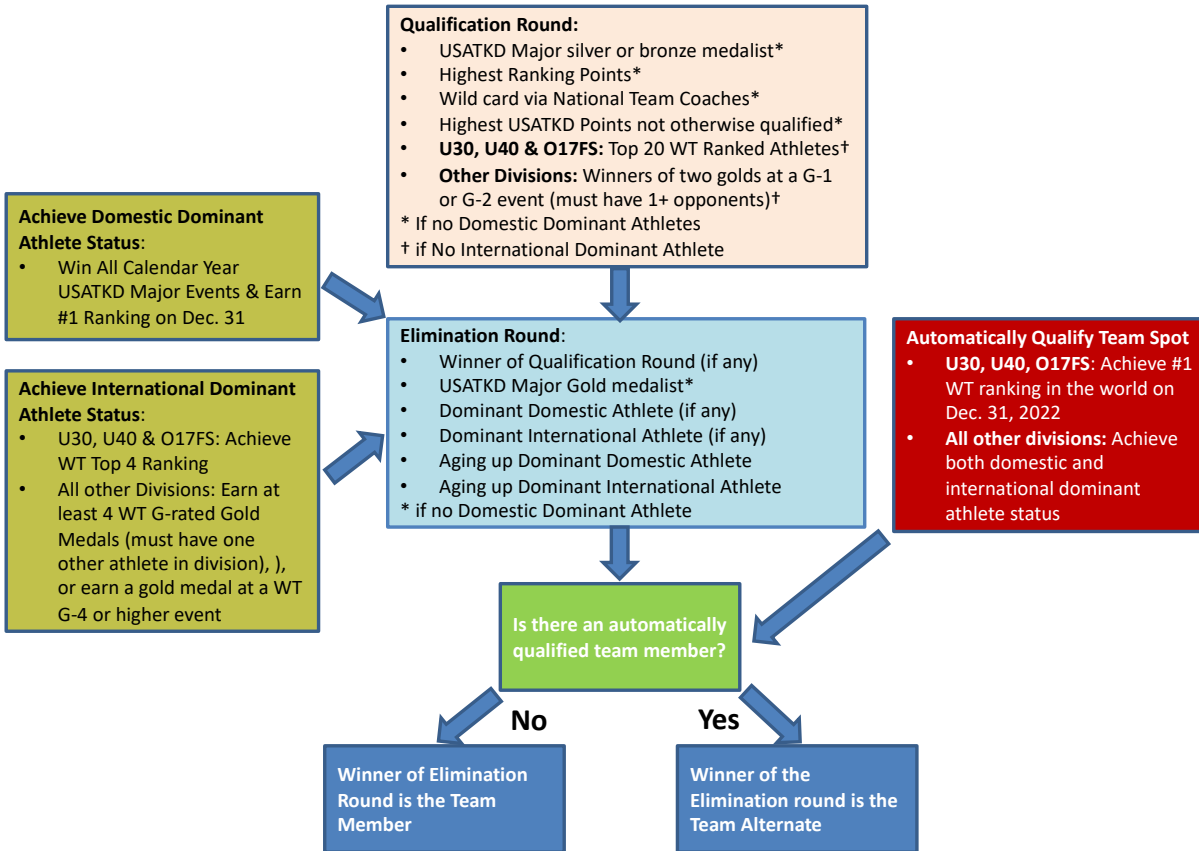
3. Achieve Domestic or International Dominant Athlete Status to exclusively secure the Domestic or International Pathway:

- Domestic Dominant
  - Win all 2022 USATKD Major events and earn #1 USATKD ranking on Dec. 31, 2022
- International Dominant (achieve one of the following)
  - **U30 & U40, O17 Freestyle:** Achieve WT Top 4 Ranking
  - **All other Divisions:** Earn at least 4 WT G-rated Gold Medals (must have one other athlete in division), or earn a gold medal at a WT G-4 or higher event

4. **Earn the team spot** by (1) winning team trials among qualified athletes for team trials, OR (2) automatically secure the spot without a team trial by achieving one of the following:

- **U30 & U40, O17 Freestyle:** Achieve WT Top 1 Ranking
- **All other Divisions:** Achieve **both** Domestic and International Dominant status

The selected team members will serve as the team members for the entire calendar year.



## What are Domestic Pathway Athletes?

Domestic pathway athletes qualify for the team trials by doing one of the following:

- Gold, silver or bronze medal at 2022 Major Event
- #1 USATKD ranked athlete
- Next-highest USATKD ranked athlete not otherwise qualified for team trials

## What is a Domestic Dominant Athlete?

A domestic dominant athlete is one who has proven to be dominant in domestic competition, and therefore prevents all other domestic pathway athletes from competing at the Team Trials. To achieve dominant status, an athlete must have achieved ALL of the following:

- Gold Medal at all 2022 USATKD majors
- #1 in the USATKD rankings as of Dec. 31, 2022

## What is an International Pathway Athlete?

International Pathway Athletes qualify for team trials by doing one of the following:

- U30 & U40, O17 Freestyle:** Achieve Top 20 in the WT rankings as of Dec. 31, 2022

- **All other divisions:** Win two golds within the division at a 2022 G-1 or G-2 Event (must have at least one opponent)

### **What is an International Dominant Athlete?**

An international dominant athlete is one who has proven to be dominant in international competition, and therefore blocks out all other international pathway athletes from competing the team trials. International Dominant Athletes must have done one of the following:

- **U30 & U40, O17 Freestyle:** Achieve #1-4 WT ranking in the world on Dec. 31, 2022
- **All other divisions:** Win four golds within the division at a 2022 G-1 or G-2 Event (must have at least one opponent), or earn a gold medal at a WT G-4 or higher event
- There may be more than one International Dominant Athlete.

### **Automatically Qualify for the Team Spot Without a Team Trials**

Athletes can qualify the team spot automatically by doing one of the following:

- **U30 & U40, O17 Freestyle:** Achieve #1 WT ranking in the world on Dec. 31, 2022
- **All other divisions:** Achieve both domestic and international dominant athlete status

In the event that there is an automatically qualified athlete, all domestic and international pathway athletes are invited to a team trials for the alternate spot.

### **Team Trials Format**

The 2023 National Team Trials shall take place in January or February 2023 and will take place in two rounds: the **Qualification Round** and the **Elimination Round**.

The Qualification Round is contested first. The format of this round is two rounds, cut off format. The first is a randomly ordered seeding round where each contestant contests a single randomly drawn form. The second round is performed in reverse order, from the lowest place (first) to highest place (last), where each contestant contests two randomly drawn forms.

The following athletes compete in the Qualifying Round:

- Domestic Pathway Athletes (if no Domestic Dominant Athlete):
  - USATKD Major Event Silver and Bronze Medalists
  - Highest ranked athlete in the USATKD Rankings not otherwise qualified for Team Trials
  - Athletes who have just aged up into the division who won a gold medal at a USATKD major in 2022
  - Athletes who have been awarded a wild card.
- International Pathway Athletes (if no International Dominant Athlete):
  - **U30 & U40, O17 Freestyle:** Top 20 WT World Ranking in the division
  - **All other divisions:** Win two golds within the division at a 2022 G-1 or G-2 Event (must have at least one opponent)

The Elimination Round is contested after the conclusion of the Qualifying Round. This round is contested according to the Team Trials format (see addendum) where each athlete performs all 8 poomsae (7 poomsae for cadet divisions) and a winner declared based on the results.

The following athletes compete in the Elimination Round:

- Dominant Domestic Athlete (if any)
- Dominant International Athlete (if any)
- Aging up Dominant Domestic athlete
- Aging up Dominant International athlete
- Major Gold Medalists (if no domestic dominant athlete)
- Winner of Qualifying Round

The winner of the Elimination round is named the team member unless there is an automatically qualified athlete.

If there is an automatically qualified athlete, then that athlete is named the team member, and does not contest the trials. The remaining domestic and international pathway athletes compete for the team alternate spot as described above.

### **Pairs and Teams**

There are no USATKD rankings for pairs and teams. The team trials process is otherwise as described above EXCEPT the introduction of a wild card for teams containing at least one aging up athlete:

Pairs and teams may apply for a wild card to team trials if at least ONE of the group's members has just aged up into that division. However, to be eligible, EVERY member of that pair or team must meet one of the following criteria AND receive the unanimous selection by the non-conflicted National Team Coaches.

- Major winner in individual, pair or team past 12 months (either new or most recent world class or youth age division)
- Top USA medalist at G2 or higher event past 12 months (either new or most recent world class or youth age division)
- Top 8 USATKD ranked (either new or most recent age world class division) individual athlete within their division (recognized individual for recognized pair and teams, and freestyle individual for freestyle pair and teams)

Individuals, pairs or teams should apply for the wild card no later than 12 weeks prior to the team trials, or within 1 week of the team trials being announced by USATKD, whichever is later, by emailing [bbrand@usatkd.org](mailto:bbrand@usatkd.org).

## **Freestyle Mixed Team (12-17 and Over 17)**

For the 12-17 Mixed Freestyle Team Division and 18+ Mixed Freestyle Team Division only, these divisions will be contested as an open division in a single cut-off round at the Team Trials.

### **Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee responsible for determining dominant athlete status and wild cards will be comprised of the following individuals:

Dan Chuang - USA Taekwondo Poomsae Head Coach  
Non-Conflicted Athlete Representative - Chosen by the AAC  
May Spence - Director of High Performance  
Non-conflicted Coach - chosen by the Executive Director Steve McNally

If you have any questions about this process, please contact [bbrand@usatkd.org](mailto:bbrand@usatkd.org).

### **Minimum National Team Trials Eligibility Requirements**

#### I. 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 participate in the team trials.

#### 2. Minimum IF standards for participation:

- a. World Taekwondo (WT); Rules of Competition, Article 4. Contestants, Section 1  
<http://www.worldtaekwondo.org/rules-wt/rules.html>
  - 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:

- a. Athlete must be a USA Taekwondo member in good standing. These procedures will be used to name a National Poomsae Team needed for any championship competition.

#### 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 USATKD physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USATKD 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 Nomination or from the Team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, WTF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

### III. Replacement of Athletes

A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of the athlete who places 2nd in the same division of team trial 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. athletes will be identified:

If there is no automatically qualified athlete, the athlete who places 2nd in the same division of team trial 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. The 3rd place athlete will be the 3rd replacement athlete if needed. The 4th place athlete will be the 4th replacement athlete if needed. After this, the team spot will remain vacant.

If there is an automatically qualified athlete, the winner in the same division of team trial will serve as the replacement athlete, should circumstances arise in which the automatically qualified athlete need to be removed for any of the reasons listed above. The 2nd place athlete will be the 3rd replacement athlete if needed. The 3rd place athlete will be the 4th replacement athlete if needed. After this, the team spot will remain vacant.

### 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](http://www.usa-taekwondo.us)

## VI. Date of Nomination

## 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. This includes 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 contributed to the creation of these Selection Procedures:

- Steve McNally, CEO, USA Taekwondo
- May Spence, Director of High Performance, USA Taekwondo
- Dan Chuang, National Poomsae Team Head Coach, USA Taekwondo
- Barbara Brand, USA Taekwondo Leadership Team
- David Turgeon, USA AAC Poomsae Representative
- Huy Nguyen, National Poomsae Team Coach, USA Taekwondo
- Jung Hwan Jin, National Poomsae Team Coach, 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

## Addendum, Team Trials Format

### COMPETITION FORMAT, Elimination Round

#### Runoff format

The run-off for **Recognized Poomsae** will place all competitors in a single final round, performed either live on video-conference or in-person, as announced by USATKD.

#### **Final Round (Recognized Poomsae) *Team Trials Format, 8 Poomsae***

With the selection of the very best athlete in mind, the method of selection for Recognized Poomsae Divisions shall include the performance of all of the eight (seven for cadet 12-14) required poomsae for each division.

Each Recognized Poomsae Division will perform eight (or seven) poomsae, one at a time per round: all competitors will perform the first randomly selected poomsae, followed by all competitors performing the second poomsae, and so forth.

The first round of competition (first poomsae) within a division shall have a random competitor order. Subsequent rounds' competitor orders shall also have a random competitor order. The algorithm used to randomize the competitors each round will ensure that no competitor will perform first for any two consecutive rounds.

#### **The selection of the winner will be based on two methods of calculating the results.**

1. The Cumulative Score Method: The first method will be by cumulative score of all rounds of competition. At the end of eight (or seven) rounds, the scores across all eight (seven) poomsae for each athlete are **totaled**. The athlete who has the highest total score will be declared the winner. The athlete who has the second highest total score is the first alternate. The athlete who has the third highest score is the second alternate, and the athlete with the fourth highest score is the third alternate.

In the case of a tie, the winner is the competitor with the highest presentation score. If the competitors are still tied, all scores received during the competition are considered (without dropping the high and low scores). If the scores are still tied, the competitors will perform a randomly selected poomsae, and the scores from that poomsae will be used to break the tie.

2. The Round Wins Method: The second method will be by placement during each round of poomsae. Each round a first, second, third and fourth place will be awarded to the competitors



and the number of wins will be recorded across all rounds. At the end of eight (or seven) rounds, the number of round wins will be listed as highest number of 1<sup>st</sup> places, # of 2<sup>nd</sup> places, # of 3<sup>rd</sup> places and # of 4<sup>th</sup> places. The competitor with the highest number of 1<sup>st</sup> place wins, if tied then the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> place, then number of 3<sup>rd</sup> place etc. (i.e. Competitor A with 5 first place wins beats Competitor B with 3 first place and 5 second place wins – or - Competitor A with 4 first place, 3 second place and 1 third place beats Competitor B with 4 first place, 2 second place and 1 third place.)

If the same athlete places first in both methods of calculating the winner than that athlete is the uncontested winner. In the event that any different athlete(s) places higher using the second method and record more first place round wins than the cumulative score winner, those athletes will have the right to challenge the winner to a tie breaker round.

The tie breaker between methods will use a single elimination format. The athletes qualifying will be seeded as the Cumulative Score winner seeded number 1 and the Round winner seeded number 2, with subsequent Round winners, if any, seeded next. Two (2) forms will be randomly selected by the Director of Events and the round will be run using WT single elimination format rules. The winner will be named the 2022 World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships Team Member. Alternates, if needed, will be selected from the cumulative score results.

The run-off for **Freestyle Poomsae** will use the cut-off method as defined by the [USATKD Poomsae Competition Rules](#), with all competitors starting in single final round (performances will be 90 sec – 100 sec in length), performed either by video recording or in-person, as announced by USATKD.

**Final Round:** each of the athletes will perform their poomsae once to determine the final standings. The athlete with the highest score will be determined the winner.

In case of a tied score, the tie will be broken according to the USATKD rules: The winner will be the competitor with the highest technical skills score. In case that the scores are still tied, the competitor with the highest total points including the total points of all judges without dropping the high and low score is the winner. If it's still tied, the tied competitors will perform one freestyle poomsae, and the competitor with the highest score will be the winner.