



**USA Team Handball**  
**Athlete Selection Procedures**  
**2022 Men's Junior Indoor Handball Team Pool**

**SELECTION SYSTEM**

The minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Junior Indoor National Team Pool and the Junior IHF Continental Trophy (December 2022, Mexico City, Mexico) are as follows:

1. Nationality and Passport requirements:
  - a. Athletes must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination and hold a valid U.S. passport that is valid until the end of 2022.
2. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or NACHC:
  - a. Any competitor must be a national of the country of the National Federation and member of USATH.
  - b. At present, IHF events require athletes to be vaccinated or provide written medical confirmation of COVID-19 in the last 180 days.
3. Minimum International Handball Federation (IHF) and/or North American and Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) standards for participation:
  - a. Upon notification by the Governing Bodies, USA Team Handball ("USATH") will immediately post the standards on the USATH web page at <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball>.

Athletes must be at least 16 years old at the time they are named to the Junior Indoor National Team Pool. Other requirements (if any):

- a. Athletes must be members of the USATH and in good standing.
  - b. Athletes ages 18 or older will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training.
2. Tryout Events:
- a. USATH's selection criteria is a dynamic process whereby all available and eligible athletes are assessed in all below listed activities, including upcoming activities as posted on the USATH website. The following will be used for evaluation for the Men's Junior Indoor National Team Pool in 2022:
    - i. June 4-5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (San Francisco, Cal Heat)
    - ii. USATH Youth & College Nationals, April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2022
    - iii. USATH Open Nationals, May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2022
    - iv. Video Submission of recent competition
    - v. Competition Analysis from international events
  - b. The events at which athletes will be evaluated are subject to change. Dates for any events, trials or camps will be announced and posted on USATH's website <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball> prior to the commencement of the evaluations and events. The athletes will be advised of any change in events at which they will be evaluated at least thirty days (30) prior to such event.



3. The following explains how athletes will proceed through the selection process to become members of the Pool for the year 2022.
  - a. The members of the USATH Men's Junior Indoor National Team Pool will be selected using the selection criteria contained in these procedures. The maximum allowable number of players, 28, will be selected to the Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team Pool.

The following athletes are eligible for selection to the Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team Pool:

- i. All athletes eligible for nomination to the Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team Pool must maintain a valid U.S. passport that will not expire within the next 6 months.
- ii. Athletes who are under the age of 20 (born in 2002 or later) and have been selected as a member of a USA Team Men's Junior Indoor Handball National Team during the period commencing January 1, 2018 through the day of selection.
- iii. Athletes attending and competing in the Men's division of any USATH sanctioned event.
- iv. Any athlete not previously identified via one of these channels who participated in one of the aforementioned tryout events or who was identified through a scouting process.

Participation in any Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team activities does not guarantee selection to the Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team Pool.

#### 4. Evaluations of Athletes.

At the evaluative activities described above, one (1) or more members of the Men's Indoor National Team Selection Committee (MINTSC) will observe and evaluate athletes. Observation and evaluation duties may be divided among the members of the MINTSC and each member's observations will be reported to the other members of the committee. Athletes will be observed and evaluated in accordance with procedures outlined herein using the selection criteria. It is intended that the observation and evaluation of athletes will be an ongoing process.

As indicated in these Selection Procedures, it is possible that each athlete being considered in selection to the Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team Pool may not have been observed at the same evaluative events or as many evaluative events as other athletes also being considered for the Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team Pool.

Ongoing Screening and Selection to the National Team Pool:

From time to time, one (1) or more members of the Men's Indoor National Team Selection Committee ("MINTSC") will observe athletes at various events including but not limited to all levels of handball competitions and events, interscholastic and collegiate handball competitions and events, club or league handball events, and events coordinated/sanctioned by USATH. Observation by members of the selection committee at such events is solely for the purpose of general scouting.



Athletes identified through the ongoing screening process, who perform at the level competitive in the current international field, will be considered for placement in the USATH Men's Indoor National Team pool. The selection member present at an "Ongoing Screening Event" may submit a written report of their observations to the remaining members of the selection committee or participate in a discussion of the athlete's performance with other members of the selection committee.

Athletes who merit invitation to the National Team Pool may be invited to participate as a member of the Junior Indoor Handball National Team Pool by the MNT Junior Coaches for Indoor Handball.

In the past, a few exceptional athletes (exceptional by virtue of their current competition level, participation in a European League, or by virtue of a physical/skill evaluation and referral), including some athletes who may be currently unknown to USATH, will surface and be contacted regarding their desire to be considered for the USA Team Handball National Team Pool and Program. In these circumstances, the athletes will be directed to participate in one of the events where they can be evaluated. If this is not possible, a special tryout might be arranged at a time and place mutually agreed upon.

#### Selection Criteria:

In selecting athletes to be members of the Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team Pool, the Selection Committee will consider information, specifically observations and statistical evaluations, both objective and discretionary data will be utilized that pertains to the criteria listed here and in Section 2 in the categories of Offensive Performance, Defensive Performance, Goalkeeping Performance, Psychological Skills and Preferred Hand, Preferred position, Versatility (ability to play other positions), and Competitive Readiness. The selection procedures of a team handball player has to concern itself with the individual's overall performance and his/her contribution to the performance of the team as a whole in interaction with the other players.

### 5. Discretionary Selection

#### a. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

The sport of team handball is not a measured or timed event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. The fact that various positions on the team (offense, goalkeeper, defense) require different physical and mental attributes must be considered. It is the belief of the MINTSC that considering the mix of Selection Criteria, which includes discretionary components in evaluation of performance ability and listed considerations, will result in selection of the best athletes, who will work together as an effective team, to continue the success of this program.

#### b. The following is the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members currently serving on the committee and their titles:



The USA Team Handball Selection Committees, which includes the requisite minimum of 33 percent of athlete representation, is responsible for making all athlete selections for the National Teams.

Men's Junior Indoor National Team Selection Committee:

<b>Men's Junior Indoor National Team Selection Committee</b>	
1. Danilo Rojevic	Men's Indoor Junior National Team Coach
2. Julio Sainz	Men's National Team Head-Technical Coaching
3. Michael King	Athlete Representative
4. Jennifer Flthian	Athlete Representative
5. Krista Austin	USATH High Performance Manager (non-voting)

c. Potential Conflict of Interests:

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. Furthermore, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance (ex: a national team coach or high performance director) may provide such information to the committee if requested by the selection 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.

6. Removal of Athletes

- a. The USATH has jurisdiction over potential nominees to the National Team Pool.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Pool may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Team Handball:

- i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written statement to the USA Team Handball CEO
- ii. Injury or illness as certified by an approved USA Team Handball physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved USA Team Handball physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- iii. Violation of the USA Team Handball's Code of Conduct (Attachment A).
- iv. An athlete selected as a member of the Men's 2022 Junior Indoor National Team Pool may be recommended for removal from the Pool



by the MINTSC for any action determined by the selection committee to be detrimental to the Pool, USA Team Handball or any USA Team Handball athlete, coach or staff member. If an athlete is recommended for removal from the Pool, he will receive written notification of such removal recommendation from the selection committee in advance of the USATH CEO's approval of his removal.

- v. An athlete who is removed from the Pool pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Team Handball's Bylaws, Article 14 or the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.
- b. An athlete may be removed as a member of the Pool or from the Pool for an adjudicated violation of USATH, NACHC, IHF, WADA, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

7. Supporting Documents

USA Team Handball 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 end date of the selection? 2022 year? .

a. Required documents

In addition to the USATH Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the USATH 2022 Junior Men's Indoor Handball Team Pool and are listed in Appendix A:

- b. USATH athletes, as a condition of participation, must abide by USATH's Policies. (Appendix A).

8. Publicity/Distribution of procedures

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

NGB Website: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball>.

NGB Official Publication (if any): Not Applicable

9. Date of nomination

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

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

10. Mandatory training and/or competition

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

A specific training program will be developed for athletes selected to the 2022 Men's Junior National Team Pool. Once the program is developed, affected athletes will be informed as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days prior, regarding mandatory training, or competitions. Each member of the selected Team is expected to participate in the developed program of training.

All requests for waivers from participation in mandatory events must be presented to the MINTSC in writing prior to the event. As soon as practical after receipt of the request, the MINTSC will review the request and approve or deny it. All waivers must be granted by the



MINTSC in writing.

11. Antidoping requirements

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC/USATH anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

12. NGB/PSO bylaws and grievance procedures

The USA Team Handball Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in the USA Team Handball Bylaws, Article 14 at the following link

<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-team-handball/about/governance/corporate-documents>

13. International Disclaimer

These procedures are based on USATH and NACHC as applicable, and/or International Handball Federation rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in International Handball Federation rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Team Handball. 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.

14. Development of selection procedures

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

- a. Danilo Rojevic, Men's Junior Indoor National Team Head Coach
- b. Krista Austin, High Performance Manager
- c. Michael King, Athlete Representative
- d. Jennifer Fithian, Athlete Representative

**Athlete Ombudsman**

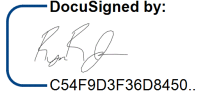
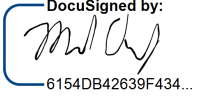
Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by NGB/ HPMO may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at <https://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombuds>:

Contact Kacie Wallace at: Telephone: 719-866-2299, or Email: [kacie@usathlete.org](mailto:kacie@usathlete.org)



15. NGB 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 NGB.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Team Handball CEO	Ryan Johnson	 DocuSigned by: C54F9D3F36D8450...	11/10/2022
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Mark Ortega	 DocuSigned by: 6154DB42639F434...	11/11/2022

## Appendix A

**Policies of USATH that athletes must adhere to can be found here:**

[Corporate Documents \(teamusa.org\)](https://teamusa.org)

These policies include the following:

Code of Conduct

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Whistle Blower Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy